



Beaconhurst

The Nursery

Beaconhurst is an all-through school comprising a Nursery, Junior and Senior schools all on the same campus. The school is managed by the Headmaster, assisted by a Deputy Head, Senior Tutor and Bursar, who reports to the school's Board of Governors. The school roll is currently around 400 and there is no intention to expand numbers significantly in the near future. Proportionally, the school population is 10% in Nursery, 40% in Junior School and 50% in Senior School. Pupils are drawn from a wide geographical area around the central belt of Scotland and from a variety of educational backgrounds, many of whom are coming to independent education for the first time.

The Nursery runs over two years: ante-pre-school and pre-school, with the majority of children progressing to Junior 1 in the Junior School. Day-to-day management comes directly from the Headmaster and Nursery Manager with Early Years Practitioners (EYP) being given a high degree of autonomy to plan, develop and evaluate curricula for the children in their group in line with the HMIe standards contained in *Child at the Centre*. In addition, as a nursery provider in partnership with Stirling Council, the Nursery meets the council's requirements in evaluating and recording children's progress using 'Starting Points'.

Morning sessions tend to be more structured than those in the afternoon, with each EYP working with their own group. However, this is alternated with free-play sessions and combined group time. The emphasis in the pre-school year is to build a smooth transition to school, with frequent collaborative events planned with Junior 1 throughout the year. In addition, children are introduced to phonics through the 'Jolly Phonics' programme and encouraged to develop writing skills as appropriate.

Good communication with parents is paramount and all nursery staff are expected to liaise with parents on a regular basis; both formally at parent/teacher meetings and informally when parents collect their children. All staff are expected to cover routine supervisory duties including After School Club, which runs from 3.15pm to 5.30pm. In addition, staff are encouraged to undertake regular CPD and play an active part in promoting and developing the Nursery.