

Harris Academy | School Handbook

October 2023

Respect | Equality | Enjoyment | Achievement



Harris Academy
Perth Road
Dundee, DD2 1NL
Tel 435700
Email: harrisacademy@dundeeschools.scot
[X \(Twitter\): @harrisacdundee](https://twitter.com/harrisacdundee)

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NB The use of the term 'parents' in this document is deemed to include all carers of young people in our school.

Section 1: Welcome and Vision

Dear Parent,

I warmly welcome you to Harris Academy. Our greatest priority as a school is to provide each and every pupil with an educational experience of the highest quality.

This handbook is designed to give you as much information as possible about our school, its aims and the opportunities that it offers. I hope it will give you an insight into Harris Academy and answer many of the questions that you may have.

The key to developing a successful school community is the quality of the relationships that exists between pupils, staff and parents. Valuing people is at the heart of our school and we will do our best to ensure this happens in practice.

I look forward to welcoming you and your young person to our school community and hope you will share in, and promote, our traditions and values whilst at the same time support us in our continuous development.

I hope you and your young person will enjoy the joint venture upon which we are about to embark.

Kind regards,



Barry Millar
Head Teacher



About Harris Academy

Harris Academy was founded in 1885 and is the oldest public school in Dundee. It is a popular school with a good reputation, and its former pupils are active and prominent in every walk of life, both within the city and throughout Scotland.

Harris Academy is a successful comprehensive school offering a wide range of courses to suit pupils of all abilities. Although modern and up to date in our methods and equipment, we have continued to promote such traditional values as academic success, hard work, good behaviour and smart appearance. We regard this mixture of progressive ideas and traditional values as one of the school's great strengths.

In 2016, Harris Academy welcomed the community from the then-closed Menzieshill High School. At the same time, our school moved into our current £40 million pound campus.

Our current cohort of young people mainly come from our six feeder primary schools, but we do have a small proportion of young people who are placing requests into our school from all areas of our city and surrounding local authority borders.

At Harris Academy, we have a school roll of around 1360 young people. Using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, 31% of our young people live in the 20%* most deprived areas of Scotland.

Across other key measures, 22%* of our young people are in receipt of Free School Meals, 44% of our young people have an identified additional support need and 13% of the cohort have English as an additional language.

**figures are accurate on 5th June 2023*

One of the distinctive features of the school is the exceptionally wide range of curricular activities on offer, and the high level of participation by pupils.

School Aims and Values

We feel that it is important that we have a clear statement of responsibilities for our young people who attend Harris Academy. The School Aims and Values are a statement of what you and your young person can expect of us. We ask that you support us in the achievement of our aims and reinforce to your young person the expectations of living our values in all that we do, every day.

HARRIS ACADEMY

AIMS AND VALUES

AIMS

At Harris Academy, we strive to build a learning community where staff, pupils and families work together to successfully nurture and develop the potential of all.

VALUES

RESPECT | We work hard to respect everyone by recognising the value each individual brings to our community. we do this by being kind, polite and considerate.

EQUALITY | We work hard to treat everyone fairly regardless of their differences. we do this by ensuring everyone has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

ENJOYMENT | We work hard to create a positive and happy learning community. we do this by nurturing the wellbeing of all.

ACHIEVEMENT | We work hard to celebrate the successes of everyone. we do this by motivating and supporting the ambitions of all.

Through hope and hard work, the Harris Academy community aims to develop the skills and qualities needed for everyone to make a positive impact on the world.

RESPECT EQUALITY ENJOYMENT ACHIEVEMENT

Section 2: School Information

School Address	Harris Academy Perth Road DUNDEE, DD2 1NL
Telephone:	01382 435700
Email Address:	harrisacademy@dundeeschools.scot
Website:	http://harrisacademy.ea.dundee.city.sch.uk/
X (formerly Twitter):	@harrisacdundee
Senior Management Team:	Head Teacher, Mr Barry Millar Depute Head Teacher, Mrs Kelly MacDonald Depute Head Teacher, Mr Michael Stewart Depute Head Teacher, Mr Raymond Perry Acting DHT, Mrs Gaynor McKinlay Acting DHT, Mr Tim Beattie Acting Business Manager, Mrs Jill Carroll
School Status:	Non-Denominational. S1 - S6
School Roll:	1355
School Hours:	8.45am – 3.40pm (Mon – Wed) 8.45am – 2.50pm (Thurs – Fri)
Parent Council Contact Information:	Mr Murray Mcleod (contact via the school office)

Office Hours

The school office is open from:

Monday – Wednesday	8.00am – 4.15pm
Thursday	8.00am – 3.30pm
Friday	8.00am – 3.15pm

Please help us by making routine telephone calls within office hours. The answering machine is switched on for your convenience when the school office is unmanned. Please do leave a message and we will return your call as quickly as possible.

In Harris we believe that close and positive contact and co-operation with parents / carers is essential for the support, well-being and progress of the young people whom we serve. We welcome contact from parents and assure you that such contact will never be considered as an imposition. A mutually convenient time can usually be found for you to meet with the relevant Guidance teacher or, if appropriate, a member of the Senior Leadership Team, which avoids disrupting learning and teaching time.


As a matter of course the school will be in touch with you in a number of ways throughout the year.

- Newsletters are sent home frequently (most often weekly)
- Numerous letters are sent home with specific information or for specific purposes
- Pupil tracking reports are issued twice or three times per year (year group dependant)
- There is one Parents'/Carers' evening for each year group during the session
- X (Twitter) [@harrisacdundee](https://twitter.com/harrisacdundee)
- Via Text Message if we have important information to share
- GroupCall Xpressions App
- School Website

Experience has taught us that young people are best educated when there is a close liaison and shared agenda between school and home. We are committed to creating, maintaining and developing such links with our parents.

School Calendar

Term Dates and Holidays	
Term 1 – Autumn Term	Session begins for all staff (INSET 1) Session begins for all young people Autumn Term ends
Mon 14 th August 2023 Tues 15 th August 2023 Fri 6 th October 2023	
Term 2 – Winter Term	Winter Term begins INSET Day 2 INSET Day 3 Winter Term ends
Mon 23 rd October Thurs 9 th November Fri 10 th November Fri 22 nd December	
Term 3 – Spring Term	Spring Term starts Mid-term holiday 1 Mid-term holiday 2 INSET Day 4 Spring Term ends
Mon 8 th Jan Fri 16 th Feb Mon 19 th Feb Tues 20 th Feb Thurs 28 th March	
Term 4 – Summer Term	Summer Term starts INSET Day 5 May holiday 1 May holiday 2 Summer Term / School session ends
Mon 15 th April Thurs 2 nd May Monday 6 th May Mon 27 th May Friday 28 th June	
Session 2024 – 2025	New school session begins (staff) New school session begins (pupils)
Mon 12 th Aug Tues 13 th Aug	
Assessments and SQA Exam Dates	Formal Assessment Block Final SQA Exams
	22 nd Jan – 2 nd Feb 22 nd April – 30 th May
Formal Assessments throughout the session at appropriate times for each individual course.	

Harris Academy	
	Perth Road Dundee DD2 1NL Tel: 01382 435700 Head Teacher – Barry Millar
Email address – harriscademy@dundeeschools.scot Follow us on Twitter - @harriscadundee	
Reporting	
S1 Tracking Report 1 S1 Tracking Report 2	w/b 30 th Nov w/b 18 th March
S2 Tracking Report 1 S2 Tracking Report 2	w/b 22 nd Jan w/b 29 th April
S3 Tracking Report 1 S3 Tracking Report 2	w/b 18 th Dec w/b 20 th May
S4 – S6 Tracking Report 1 S4 – S6 Tracking Report 2 S4 – S6 Tracking Report 3	w/b 11 th Sep w/b 13 th Nov w/b 26 th Feb
Parent / Carer Contact Evenings	
S1	Wed 1 st May
S2	Tues 12 th Dec
S3	Tues 30 th Jan
S4	Mon 25 th Sept
S5/6 Birmam & Cawdor S5/6 Forbes & Kinloch	Mon 20 th Nov Wed 29 th Nov
Please note that all parent / carer events will be hosted in person in the school building unless COVID restrictions return	

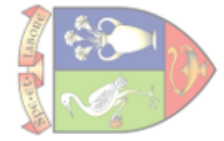
Key Events	
Celebration of Achievements and Prize Giving	Prizetgiving Ceremony Thurs 27 th June (tbc)
Senior Phase Engagement Events	
Senior Phase Information Evening Course Choice Information Evening (S3-S5) Course Choice Information Evening (S2)	Thurs 21 st Sept Wed 17 th January Tues 23 rd January
Performances and Events	
Christmas Fayre Christmas Carol Service Christmas Panto (S1-S3) Christmas Concert	Sat 2 nd Dec Thurs 7 th Dec Wed 13 th & Thurs 14 th Dec Wed 20 th Dec
P7 Transition Events	
P7 Open Evening Maths Challenge HT / DHT Visits P7 Roadshows P7 Transition Days P7 Parent / Carer evening	Wed 8 th Nov w/b 13 th & 20 th Nov (tbc) Term 2 Term 3 Wed 12 th Thurs 13 th & Fri 14 th Jun Mon 17 th Jun
Parent/Carer Voice Meetings	
Term 1 Meeting (incl AGM) Term 2 Meeting Term 3 Meeting (1) Term 3 Meeting (2) Term 4 Meeting	Thurs 31 st Aug Thurs 16 th Nov Tues 16 th Jan Wed 6 th Mar Tues 21 st May

House Structure

September 2023

Harris Academy | House Structure

Birnam		Cawdor		Forres		Kinloch	
PTs Guidance		PTs Guidance		PTs Guidance		PTs Guidance	
Mrs Taylor / Ms Walker	Miss Anderson	Mr Lesslie	Mr Mordente	Mr Clements	Mrs Nicolson / Mr Clark	Mr Milne	Mrs Gow
S1 – S6 Ba classes	S1 – S6 Bb & Bc classes	S1 – S6 Ca & Cc Classes	S1 – S6 Cb classes	S1 – S6 Fa classes	S1 – S6 Fb & Fc classes	S1 – S6 Ka classes	S1 – S6 Kb & Kc classes
House Head		House Head		House Head		House Head	
Mrs MacDonald		Ms McKinlay		Mr Beattie		Mr Stewart	
Support for Learning link - A Kata		Support for Learning link - L Robertson		Support for Learning link - K Fuqua / L Prior		Support for Learning link - S Gibson	



Section 3: School Policies & Practical Information

School Uniform

There is an expectation for all pupils to wear the correct school uniform. This helps us in our aim of encouraging children to take a pride in their appearance, ensure the safety of our young people by ensuring they are identifiable and to have respect for their school.

HARRIS ACADEMY UNIFORM POLICY



OUR EXPECTATIONS

WHITE SHIRT
HARRIS ACADEMY SCHOOL TIE
BLACK TROUSERS OR SKIRT
BLACK CARDIGAN OR SWEATSHIRT
PLAIN BLACK SHOES OR TRAINERS

OPTIONAL

HARRIS ACADEMY BLAZER

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND

NO HOODIES
NO LEGGINGS
NO LARGE LOGOS ON SWEATSHIRTS
NO JOGGING BOTTOMS



IF YOU NEED ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORTING OUR DRIVE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO WEAR FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM ON A DAILY BASIS, PLEASE CONTACT THE RELEVANT GUIDANCE TEACHER IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

RESPECT EQUALITY ENJOYMENT ACHIEVEMENT

PE Kit

Pupils are required to bring appropriate PE kit to all PE lessons, our preference is that PE kit is black in colour, although navy will be permitted for the 2023/24 session.

There is the option to purchase embroidered Harris Academy PE Kit from Direct Soccer. There is no expectation that young people must wear branded Harris Academy PE kit. If pupils are not wearing Harris Academy PE kit the expectation is that they will wear their own black PE kit. Navy kit will be permitted during the 2023/24 session.

Pupils will participate in swimming in PE at a point during the year and will be required to bring appropriate swimwear. Their class teacher will provide further information on this.



The advertisement features a blue header with the Harris Academy crest on the left and the text 'HARRIS ACADEMY PE Kit 23/24' in white. Below this is a white section with a blue 'AVAILABLE SELECTION' banner. Four items are displayed: a black jersey with the Harris Academy crest, black shorts with a Nike logo, black leggings with 'PRO NIKE' on the waistband and a Nike logo, and a black drill top with the Harris Academy crest. Each item is labeled below: 'JERSEY', 'SHORTS', 'LEGGINGS', and 'DRILL TOP'. The bottom section has a dark blue background with the Direct Soccer logo and text: 'ORDERS FULFILLED BY DIRECT SOCCER'. Below this, it says 'ORDER YOUR KIT ONLINE AT WWW.DIRECTSOCCER.CO.UK > CLUB SHOPS > HARRIS ACADEMY'. A small text block provides delivery information: 'Orders are fulfilled within the estimated delivery dates provided on your order confirmation, and can be delivered to you or collected from our premises at West Pitkerro Ind. Est. (behind Sainsbury's, near Royal Mail depot)'. At the bottom, it says 'For any enquiries please contact 01382 736 854 or clubshops@directsoccer.co.uk'.

Direct Soccer: https://www.directsoccer.co.uk/club-shops/g_-_j/harris-academy-

School Clothing Grants

If you are in receipt of Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance - Income Based, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit (where take home pay is less than £726 per month), Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction or Child Tax Credit with an income of less than £18,725 (as assessed by HMRC), you may be entitled to receive a grant towards the cost of buying essential clothing to enable children up to the age of 16 to attend school.

Grants are paid directly into your bank account. If you do not have a bank account we will contact you to discuss other payment options.

The current value of a Clothing Grant is £150 per secondary school child.

Automatic awards

Most families will get an automatic award, which means they will not need to fill in a new application form each year.

You get an automatic award if you meet these conditions:

- you got an award in 2022/23 and
- you get Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction.

Payments will be made from 10 July onwards.

Otherwise, you must apply.

Application forms can be submitted online: <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/eduforms>

Cost of the School Day

Harris Academy	
Cost of the School Day 2023 - 2024	
Whole School Activities	
Activity	Cost
Canteen Meal Deal	£2.25
Duke of Edinburgh Award	£25.50 - £32.50
Non-Uniform Events	Donation Only

Harris Academy	
Cost of the School Day 2023 - 2024	
Uniform	
Item	Cost
Blazer (Wool)*	£99
Blazer (Eco)*	£40
PE Kit (with school logo)*	£8 - £27
Swimwear	From £10
Trainers	From £15

** not essential*

Harris Academy	
Cost of the School Day 2023 - 2024	
Sixth Year Leaver's	
Item	Cost
Hoodie*	From £25
Yearbook*	£20
S6 Leaver's Dance*	£35

** not essential*

If further financial assistance is needed to meet any of the above costs, please contact your child's guidance teacher and ask about Harris Academy's Opportunity Fund.

School Meals

The cost of a school lunch varies according to what the individual young person chooses from the menu. Typically, a meal (including drink and snack) will cost £2.25.

We encourage all young people to stay in our social spaces at lunchtime and, if they would prefer to bring their own lunch with them, they are welcome to eat it in our service areas.

Please inform the school office in writing if your young person has any special dietary needs so that arrangements can be put in place.

Free School Meals

Free school meals are available to all pupils whose parents receive Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance - Income Based, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit where take home pay is less than £726 per month, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit ONLY with an income of less than £18,725, or BOTH Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income less than £8,717 (as assessed by HMRC).

Application forms can be submitted online: <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/eduforms>

Instrumental Tuition

Tuition fees and instrument hire are free of charge in all Dundee City Council schools.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

EMA is part of the Scottish Executive's agenda of encouraging access to, and participation in, further and higher education by young people from low-income families.

EMA provides financial support for 16 – 19 year olds who stay on in full time non advanced education or a community/voluntary Activity programme after their statutory school leaving date.

Do you qualify for EMA

- Were you born between 1 March 2004 and 29 February 2008?
- Do you attend a Dundee school or do you reside in the Dundee area and are you undertaking a programme of learning in a community or voluntary setting?
- Was your 2022-23 household income:
 - £24,421 per annum or less (for families with a single dependent child) or
 - £26,884 per annum or less (families with more than one dependent child)?

EMA is a weekly allowance of £30 payable to eligible young people who have achieved 100% attendance per week. It is payable in arrears, generally on a 2 weekly basis.

How to apply for EMA

Application forms can be submitted online: <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/ema>

Payments to Schools

The school currently accepts payments online, using a secure website called ParentPay, for items such as school meals, trips and uniforms. The ParentPay system is easy to use and offers parents/carers the freedom to make payments by debit or credit card whenever they like, ensuring that monies reach schools safely and securely.

The system helps to remove the costs associated with having to manage cash securely on school premises and it frees up time to better support the smooth running of the school.

If you already have a ParentPay account, you don't have to do anything. If you haven't yet activated a ParentPay account, please contact the school office who will print an activation letter to enable you to set up your account.

Leaving Dates

Summer Leaving Date

A pupil whose sixteenth birthday falls on or after 1st March and before 1st October, is judged to have reached school leaving age on the 31st May.

Winter Leaving Date

A pupil whose sixteenth birthday falls on or after 1st October and before the last day of February, is judged to have reached school leaving age on the first day of the Christmas holidays.

Emergency School Closure procedures

In exceptional circumstances the school may be unable to function normally. The school may be affected by severe weather or power failures. We shall do all we can to let you know about the details of closure and re-opening through the local radio, press, text messages and letters home. You can be assured that we will never send a young person home without first checking that there is an adult at home.

Placing Requests

Parents of children living out with the school's catchment area, who wish their child to attend the school, are asked to make a placing request. Forms can be obtained from Harris Academy's office, or any other DCC school. The child's birth certificate and a proof of address, in the form of a Benefit Book, Council Tax book or recent (within two months) utilities account must be shown.

School Absence Procedures

Please telephone the school as soon as possible if your child is absent.

If your child is absent and no contact is made by you, a text message will be sent from the school. If three days pass without explanation for an absence, a Senior Support Worker will arrange to visit you and your child at home.

The following points are included in the Education Authority's policy:

Attendance Initiative

- If your child is ill and cannot attend school please telephone the school before, or as soon as possible after 8.45am on the first day of absence.
- If the absence is planned, e.g. a hospital appointment, we ask you to let us know prior to the absence.
- If your child is absent for more than three days, please call again, e-mail or write to tell us. Parent will need to contact us on each day of any continued absence if they have not already informed of a definite period of absence for their child.
- If you have not contacted the school to say your child is absent and have received a text message, please contact us as soon as possible.

Regular attendance at school ensures your child is receiving the continuous education they are entitled to. Dundee City Council asks that, where possible, parents do not take children out of school for family holidays during term time. In accordance with Scottish Executive guidelines for pupil attendance, most holidays are recorded as unauthorised unless there is proof from an employer that this is the only time when holidays could be taken.

A guide for parents about school attendance explains parental responsibilities with regard to children's attendance at school –

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/12/04134640/0>

Appointments

If your child has an appointment during the school day or needs to leave school for any other reason, please call the school office. We would appreciate it if routine appointments could be made out with school hours but understand that this isn't always possible.

If your child does need to leave school during the school day they must be collected by a parent/carer at the main reception. In the interest of safety, we cannot allow children to leave the school unaccompanied.

Accidents/Illness at School

In the event of a child having an accident or becoming ill at school we will attempt to contact the parents so that they can collect the child from school. However, if we cannot contact the parents, we will contact the Emergency Contact whose name and telephone number should be given to us by the parents.

Therefore, it is very important that parents inform the school of the name, address and telephone number of the Emergency Contact and advise the school immediately of any changes that occur.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

At Harris Academy we strive to build a learning community where staff, pupils and families work together to successfully nurture and develop the potential of all.

The Relationships for Learning Policy was developed by staff, pupils and parents and underpins our school values of *Respect, Equality, Enjoyment and Achievement*.

The purpose of the policy is to create a calm ethos, where everyone feels they are included, they belong and are cared for. We work in partnership to remove barriers, creating an engaging and empowering climate for learning. We want our young people to become responsible and successful citizens who fulfil and surpass their potential.



Positive relationships in our learning community are central to the well-being of learners and staff and underpin an effective learning environment. There is a wealth of research on the importance of connectedness in schools and on the specific qualities of in-school relationships that promote effective education. This policy should not be used in isolation, it links directly to the Harris Academy Standard for Learning and Teaching, specifically relating to planning learning and creating a positive learning climate. This guidance has been developed to promote consistent application of our Relationships Policy and our relationship-based practice.

At Harris Academy we believe positive relationships and behaviour to be integral to achieving a happy, healthy and safe learning community. We aim to place the young person at the centre of all decisions that affect their learning so that each individual within our community can be appropriately supported to be: Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible, and Included.

It is everyone's responsibility to choose the correct behaviour in school. Reminders of expectations and responsibilities are displayed in all learning environments and corridors (an updated version will be in place by end of October '23).

A fully copy of our Relationships for Learning policy can be found on our website

Tobacco/Alcohol/Illegal Substance/Legal Highs

Dundee City Council's no-smoking policy applies to all pupils as it does to school staff.

Smoking is not allowed during the school day or on the way to and from school. This includes the use of e-cigarettes or vapes. Should a young person be found smoking on school grounds or within the close vicinity of school, contact will be made with the parent in the first instance. Should this happen on a second occasion the young person will face further consequences that may include exclusion from school.

Alcohol, drugs and other illegal substances are prohibited in school. Pupils found to be in possession, or under the influence, of such will be subject to the full process of the law.

School Concerns and Complaints Procedures

Please share any concerns with your young person's Guidance teacher in the first instance. If you have any concerns in relation to a member of staff, please contact the office, asking to speak with Mr Millar.

To try and support your concerns as early as possible, Mr Millar holds a HT surgery on the last Monday of the month (4.30 – 7pm). You are welcome to come and discuss any concerns at this time.

If you have made a complaint to the school and you are not satisfied with the outcome, you can have your complaint reviewed by a senior officer in Dundee City Council's Children and Families Service.

Home Learning

Our home learning policy can be found at <http://harrisacademy.ea.dundee.city.sch.uk/school-1/home-learning-policy-2019-2.pdf>

Our current S1- S3 pupils' will use Satchel One (formerly known as Show My Homework), an online tool to help you keep track of your young person's home learning. Satchel One will allow you to see the details of the tasks your child has been set, all their deadlines and their submission status and grades. We use this system to allow us to communicate with parents and give you greater visibility into the homework we set.

You will be provided with login details to your personal account which is linked to your child's homework calendar where you will be able to see your child's To-do List and any homework that is overdue.

S4-S6 pupils will have a class 'Team' for each of their subjects, all learning materials and resources will be uploaded here as well as all home learning tasks.

We are clear in our belief that the completion of home learning tasks enhances the understanding of our young people and, as a result, helps to improve levels of academic achievement.

There is an expectation across departments that appropriate and challenging home learning tasks are issued regularly to our Harris Academy pupils. Feedback will be provided by teachers to help ensure understanding and help our young people plan their learning journey with their teacher accordingly.

Section 4: Parental Involvement

A working group of parents, in liaison with the Head Teacher and Dundee City Council, agreed the details of the Harris Academy Parent Voice.

The role of the Parent Voice is as follows:

- To work in partnership with the school to create a welcoming school which is inclusive for all parents.
- To promote partnership between the school, its pupils and all parents.
- To develop and engage in activities which support the education, welfare and personal development of the pupils.
- To identify and represent the views of parents on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education, welfare and personal development of the pupils.

The Head Teacher will attend Parent Voice meetings and the local Councillors and MSP will be invited to attend.

Meeting dates will be published on the school website, our weekly newsletter and our twitter feed.

Email: pcharrisacademy@dundee.npfs.org.uk

All parents of pupils at the school can, and are encouraged to, attend Parent Voice meetings whether they are members or not. The agenda of the meetings will be published on the school web site so please feel free to come along at any time to observe or to contribute to the meetings (with no obligation!).

Section 5: The Curriculum

Curriculum for Excellence 3-18

Curriculum

Within Harris Academy we deliver education within the framework of the Scottish Government's Curriculum for Excellence. Its aim is to help prepare children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need in a fast-changing world. As part of Curriculum for Excellence all children from pre-school to the end of S3 will receive a rounded education known as a Broad General Education before they enter the Senior Phase in S4 – S6.

Curriculum for Excellence is about bringing real life into the classroom and taking lessons beyond it. Through the experiences we provide we want our children to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors. At Harris Academy, we are committed to providing children with a broad general education experience, focused on eight curriculum areas and through the Harris Pledge.

Expressive Arts	Health & Wellbeing	Languages	Mathematics
Religious & Moral	Sciences	Social Studies	Technologies

The Harris Pledge is a commitment to ensuring opportunities to support ambition and complement academic attainment.

Progress in BGE learning is assessed and reported through curriculum levels as follows:

Level	Stage
Early	The pre-school years and P1 or later
First	To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some
Second	To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some
Third & Fourth	S1-S3, but earlier for some

At the end of the Broad General Education learners are supported in planning a course of study through what is referred to as the Senior Phase. This curriculum, from S4 to S6 (from around ages 15 to 18) follows on from a young person's Broad General Education, building on the benchmarks which they will have achieved by the end of S3. Senior Phase, enables young people to extend and deepen their learning through more specialised study and to continue to develop skills for learning, life and work.

During the Senior Phase, young people will build up a portfolio of qualifications. It is at this stage of their educational journey that the relationship between the curriculum and National Qualifications becomes of key significance. The curriculum in the Senior Phase, however, comprises of more than programmes that lead to qualifications. There is a continuing emphasis, for example, on health and wellbeing including

physical activity and opportunities for personal achievement, service to others and practical experience of the world of work. Learners have opportunities, at all stages, to gain recognition for learning and achievements which take place outside the classroom. The Senior Phase ultimately supports young people in moving on to the next stage – whether that is college, university, training or employment. In the Senior Phase, schools and their partners (colleges, employers or community learning and development providers) now have the flexibility to offer a range of pathways that meet the needs and raise the attainment levels of all learners.

As well as National, Higher and Advanced Higher Qualifications there is also a wide range of National Progression Awards, vocational qualifications and awards that young people can choose, offering increased flexibility and a greater focus on skills and applying learning to real-life situations. More specific and individualised information about your child's learning can be obtained from the school, including skills for work; leadership and personal development opportunities.

Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

The GIRFEC approach is about how staff in all children's services meet their needs by working together to ensure that children reach their full potential.

www.scotland.gov.uk/gettingitright

Sensitive Issues

Part of our curriculum involves teaching the children about issues which could be considered sensitive i.e. sexual health and relationships education or drugs and alcohol awareness. Parents should be assured that whenever these topics arise, we will communicate as appropriate with home. On some occasions we may send a letter just to raise awareness that specific issues are to be covered, on other occasions we will actively seek permission to include your child/children in a series of lessons. If any parent is concerned about what is being covered within the curriculum however, they should feel free to speak to a member of staff about this.

Religious Observance

Through the school's ethos and within the curriculum, opportunities arise throughout the pupil's experiences to explore morals and values. We help learners develop a responsible attitude to others as well as their own beliefs and values. Pupils are encouraged to develop an understanding of many religions including Christianity.

Through specific focused inputs during the academic year, each year group has the opportunity to develop their skills of reflection, critical thinking and learn how to act when making moral decisions. The school welcomes diversity and individuality whilst emphasising our common commitment to moral values such as honesty, compassion, justice and respect for others. It is a fundamental principle of Harris Academy that all who are involved in the life of the school feel valued and have the right to be respected as individuals. All within the school community carry the responsibility to act in a considerate and respectful manner toward one another.

Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 "any pupils may be withdrawn by his/her parents from instruction in religious subjects and from religious observance". Parents wishing to exercise this right should discuss with the Head Teacher.

Prayer Room

Young people who wish to make use of a quiet room for individual prayer and contemplation can do so during their lunch break. Any queries should be directed to the relevant Guidance teacher in the first instance.

Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of learning and teaching. It helps to provide a picture of a young person's progress and achievements and to identify next steps in learning. As your child moves through the curriculum, they will experience a range of approaches to assessment.

Throughout S1 to S3 all Young People follow a Broad General Education. Assessment of young people's progress and achievement during their broad general education will be based on teacher's assessment of their knowledge and understanding, skills, attributes and capabilities.

Over the course of S1 to S3 all Young People will also be involved in a variety of Standardised Assessments. These are diagnostic assessments that provide information for teachers on how well children are doing in literacy and numeracy, to help guide learning and teaching, and allow teachers to identify possible strengths and weaknesses in learning which need to be considered to ensure appropriate teaching and progress takes place.

These assessments are also designed to produce national-level information about children and young people's progress for teachers' use in school and the Scottish Government at national level. National level information covers the whole of Scotland and not individual schools.

In S4 to S6 Young People make their way through the Senior Phase. Assessment continues to be an integral part of learning and teaching and, in addition to providing a picture of a young person's progress and achievements and to identify next steps in learning, all young people will also experience a variety of assessment practices which lead to qualifications.

Reporting to Parents and Carers

Engaging with Parents and Carers in a meaningful manner that supports learning at home and at school is central to our reporting procedures.

There will be between three and four formal reporting activities each session for every pupil. These formal reporting activities will include a combination of:

- Face to face parent consultation meetings (e.g. Parents' Evenings)
- Written Reports

Every pupil will receive one written report with comments on progress in learning in addition to tracking reports. The timings of these reports can be found in the school calendar.

At all levels, provision exists for communication from individual teachers to be sent home, and parents in turn are invited to discuss progress with Guidance staff and/or the appropriate House Head. If parents require a progress report at any other time, contact should be made with the appropriate Guidance teacher.

Leaving School

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) works in partnership with members of the extended pupil support team and positive destinations team to offer targeted careers guidance, targeted interventions, and a broad range of related support to all pupils.

At Harris Academy we have a dedicated SDS team who are based in the school most days and offer support to our young people in groups and on an individual basis.

They also support staff in raising awareness of the range of career options available including Employment, Modern, Foundation and Degree level Apprenticeships, Further / Higher Education, Enterprise, Gap Year options and training providers.

Our young people will meet their Careers Advisers in Social Education and are invited to request an individual Careers Interview at any point in their school career. Our Advisers also attend Parents' Evenings, Information Evenings, and our Career Fayre.

Skills Development Scotland welcome contact with young people and parents/carers from S1 – S6 and are committed to working with staff at Harris Academy to support our leavers into positive destinations.

For all year groups there are also lunch time drop-in sessions throughout the academic year.

All young people will be asked to complete a leavers form (see link below) to enable us to ensure that every young person transitions into a positive destination.

<https://forms.office.com/r/Mj15E1PZL4>

Section 6: Support for Pupils

Most children make satisfactory progress in school and their education can be fully supported by their class teacher. Some children may, however, need additional support to help them access learning in the classroom. Assessment and planning for their needs will be done through an ABL or Child's Plan which identifies their strengths, barriers to learning and what action or support is required to meet their additional needs. A very small number of children with significant and long-term additional support needs may meet the criteria for a Coordinated Support Plan.

Support for learning takes place in every class and is the responsibility of all staff in the school. All pupils are encouraged to work to the highest level of their ability and extra support is available for children who may require it to help them achieve their potential. The Head Teacher, teachers and other staff work closely to ensure that children and young people's individual learning needs are met.

The work of Support for Learning staff is regularly reviewed and is based upon pupil need. Support may be given within the class or within another setting and may be within a group although it is always based upon the needs of the individual child.

The procedures and processes by which an individual child's needs are identified and addressed are set out in Dundee City Education Department's policy on Supporting Learners. Central to this is the assessment of need using a staged intervention model and the involvement of parents. We also maintain very valuable partnerships within education and with agencies beyond to support pupils who have additional needs of any kind.

To help assess the specific needs of any pupil who may require extra help, the school is able to call upon the services of an Educational Psychologist from Dundee Educational Psychology Service. Before such a step is taken, parents are always contacted and the reason for such a referral is fully explained and parental co-operation sought.

As a parent/carer you can access a wide range of information with regard to additional support needs. The information is available both at your local school and on the Dundee City Council website on this internet page <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/education/support/>

The following are available for you at the above internet page.

- Assessing Additional Support Needs
- Attending Pupil Support Planning Meetings
- Co-ordinated Support Plan
- Dispute Resolution
- Dispute Resolution Referral Form
- Mediation - Parent to Parent leaflet
- Supporting Learning (Dundee City Council Education Department, Support for Learning Policy)
- Supporting Learning in Dundee

This internet page also has many other leaflets on related topics which might be of interest to you.

If you cannot access the internet, please ask the School Office if you would like a copy of any of these documents

The Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended by the 2009 Act came into force on 15 November 2010. The recommendations of the Children and Young People's Act (2014), in particular the Child's Plan and the responsibility of the Named Person, also affects how we assess and plan for all children and young people.

Information on additional support needs is also available to you from outside Dundee City Council:

Enquire - The Scottish Advice Service for Additional Support for Learning Operated by Children in Scotland, Enquire offers independent, confidential advice and information on additional support for learning through:

- a telephone helpline - 0345 123 2303
- an email enquiry service - info@enquire.org.uk
- an online enquiry service
- two websites - www.enquire.org.uk (for parents/carers and practitioners) and www.enquire.org.uk/yp (for children and young people)
- Enquire also provide a range of clear and easy-to-read guides and fact sheets explaining everything from 'additional support in the early years' to 'what planning should take place for moving on from school'.

Let's Talk ASN

Let's Talk ASN is a free service for the parents of children with additional support needs who may require support in relation to a dispute or potential dispute with an education authority. It is a joint initiative of Govan Law Centre (Charity No. SC030193) and Kindred Advocacy (Charity No. SC000264). It provides support for parents and young people from the time they have grounds to make a reference to the Additional Support Needs Tribunal for Scotland (ASNTS).

Advice and information regarding this service can be obtained by email or phone-call:

letstalkasn@edlaw.org.uk 0141 445 1955

Scottish Child Law Centre

The Scottish Child Law Centre is a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SCO12741. It offers advice and support for families in regard of additional support needs.

The Scottish Government website's Additional Support for Learning page also provides links to relevant legislation and guidance, including the arrangements that should be in place to support pupils with additional support needs:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/welfare/ASL>

The 'Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice (Revised edition)' - provides Statutory guidance relating to the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/04/04090720/21>

'Getting It Right For Every Child and Young Person', is essential reading for anyone involved or working with children and young people, including practitioners working in adult services with parents and carers. Find it at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright> 'Supporting Learners - guidance on the identification, planning and provision of support' is at

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/supportinglearners/>

Section 7: School Improvement

Our improvement priorities have been generated through consultation with pupils, parents, partners and staff. For session 23-24, they are:

HARRIS ACADEMY

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

SESSION 2023 - 2024



PRIORITY 1 | **PROGRESS**

Improve our approaches to assessment and tracking in the Broad General Education

Improve S4 attainment



PRIORITY 2 | **PARTICIPATION**

Develop an improved climate for learning

Review our approaches to Home Learning

Improve our curriculum offer in the Broad General Education

Develop engaged and active learners



PRIORITY 3 | **PRESENCE**

Improve attendance

Reduce late coming



RESPECT EQUALITY ENJOYMENT ACHIEVEMENT

Attainment Data 2022 - 2023

Broad General Education Attainment Data (end of S3)

Harris Academy: S3 Achievement of a level - Reading					
	'18/19	'19/20	'20/21	'21-22	'22-23
2nd level and above	98%	99%	100%	98%	100%
3rd level and above	91%	87%	96%	89%	86%
4th level	61%	52%	64%	63%	52%

Harris Academy: S3 Achievement of a level - Writing					
	'18/19	'19/20	'20/21	'21-22	'22 - 23
2nd level and above	98%	99%	100%	99%	100%
3rd level and above	95%	84%	96%	89%	85%
4th level	57%	46%	64%	62%	52%

Harris Academy: S3 Achievement of a level – Listening & Talking					
	'18/19	'19/20	'20/21	'21-22	'22-23
2nd level and above	98%	98%	100%	99%	100%
3rd level and above	96%	89%	96%	92%	88%
4th level	61%	45%	64%	64%	50%

Harris Academy: S3 Achievement of a level - Numeracy					
	'18/19	'19/20	'20/21	'21-22	'22-23
2nd level and above	94%	99.5%	98%	99%	99%
3rd level and above	90%	91%	91%	93%	77%
4th level	66%%	76%	68%	71%	49%

Senior Phase Attainment (S4 – S6)

Breadth and Depth Analysis: S4

S4		SCQF Level 4 or better								
		Diet								
Awards at A-C	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
1 or more	93%	91%	90%	91%	90%	94%	97%	93%		
2 or more	91%	89%	86%	87%	87%	91%	91%	87%		
3 or more	87%	86%	79%	78%	84%	82%	82%	80%		
4 or more	81%	81%	71%	66%	78%	73%	60%	69%		
5 or more	67%	69%	56%	48%	66%	56%	36%	55%		
6 or more	47%	46%	33%	26%	41%	36%	21%	28%		

		SCQF Level 5 or better								
		Diet								
Awards at A-C	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
1 or more	78%	77%	69%	76%	75%	73%	78%	80%		
2 or more	64%	68%	58%	63%	66%	61%	66%	73%		
3 or more	54%	57%	53%	54%	59%	52%	54%	63%		
4 or more	48%	50%	46%	46%	51%	47%	42%	49%		
5 or more	39%	36%	36%	34%	41%	39%	29%	36%		
6 or more	28%	24%	22%	19%	29%	30%	19%	19%		

Breadth and Depth Analysis: S5

S5		SCQF Level 5 or better								
		Diet								
Awards at A-C	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
1 or more	82%	120%	83%	76%	83%	81%	82%	84%		
2 or more	76%	102%	78%	70%	77%	72%	73%	76%		
3 or more	73%	87%	68%	64%	72%	66%	65%	65%		
4 or more	68%	71%	63%	58%	65%	62%	55%	56%		
5 or more	60%	61%	57%	52%	54%	56%	50%	47%		
6 or more	52%	51%	51%	45%	46%	52%	46%	40%		

		SCQF Level 6 or better								
		Diet								
Awards at A-C	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
1 or more	61%	76%	58%	52%	56%	57%	52%	47%		
2 or more	47%	61%	45%	42%	44%	47%	41%	34%		
3 or more	37%	44%	35%	33%	35%	37%	38%	29%		
4 or more	30%	30%	25%	26%	24%	27%	32%	20%		
5 or more	19%	16%	12%	16%	11%	16%	20%	10%		

Breadth and Depth Analysis: S6





S6 SCQF Level 5 or better									
Diet									
Awards at A-C	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1 or more	88%	114%	120%	84%	82%	89%	87%	89%	
2 or more	79%	101%	105%	78%	75%	79%	74%	73%	
3 or more	74%	89%	93%	70%	69%	74%	68%	65%	
4 or more	66%	78%	82%	66%	63%	69%	65%	58%	
5 or more	62%	65%	75%	60%	59%	60%	60%	54%	
6 or more	55%	60%	64%	55%	52%	53%	56%	51%	

SCQF Level 6 or better									
Diet									
Awards at A-C	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1 or more	62%	91%	82%	62%	65%	67%	65%	61%	
2 or more	52%	72%	70%	52%	53%	53%	52%	46%	
3 or more	47%	58%	58%	45%	47%	45%	45%	42%	
4 or more	43%	46%	49%	39%	42%	36%	39%	39%	
5 or more	38%	36%	42%	32%	33%	27%	34%	35%	

SCQF Level 7 or better									
Diet									
Awards at A-C	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1 or more	29%	31%	24%	22%	26%	23%	22%	28%	
2 or more	12%	9%	10%	7%	11%	7%	10%	14%	
3 or more	2%	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%	7%	

Section 8: The Harris Pledge

The graphic is a 2x2 grid of colored boxes. The top-left box is red and titled 'Experiences' with an icon of mountains and trees. The top-right box is yellow and titled 'Career' with an icon of a person at a desk. The bottom-left box is green and titled 'Leadership' with an icon of a network of people. The bottom-right box is blue and titled 'Volunteering' with an icon of hands. In the center, overlapping the four boxes, is the school crest with the motto 'SPERARE IN LABORE' and the text 'The Harris Pledge ensuring opportunities for all to support their ambitions and to complement their academic attainment'.

 <h3>Experiences</h3> <p><i>Every young person will have the opportunity to experience an outdoor learning event and attend a club that interests them.</i></p>	<h3>Career</h3>  <p><i>Every young person will receive support to reach their career goals and will have an enriched career experience.</i></p>
<p><i>Every young person will have the opportunity to experience a leadership role.</i></p> <h3>Leadership</h3> 	<p><i>Every young person will have the opportunity to experience volunteering.</i></p> <h3>Volunteering</h3> 

The Harris Pledge
ensuring opportunities for all
to support their ambitions and
to complement their
academic attainment

The Harris Pledge demonstrates a vision of how we can further enrich the experiences of our young people. The four areas comprising of leadership, volunteering, career, and experiences will complement their academic achievement.

Career

Our young people benefit from a successful work experience programme in S3 and through further world of work opportunities throughout their senior phase education. However, our career education spans the full S1-S6 experience. Our staff are informed of the young people's career preferences which allows them to best support their aspirations. We are committed to learning transferrable skills across all curricular areas which will equip our young people with the skills and qualities they will need for an ever changing 21st century world. We have strong partnerships with employers, further education, higher education and training providers, enabling us to guide them down the path that is best for them.

Leadership

Our young people benefit from a plethora of leadership opportunities that span across all year groups. Some of these opportunities can be found below, though can change from year-to-year.

- School Captain
- House Captain
- Senior Prefect
- S3 Prefect
- Harris Pledge Ambassadors
- Departmental Ambassadors
- Cluster Ambassadors
- My World of Work Ambassadors
- Digital Leader
- Extra-curricular group leaders
- Pupil Voice Member

Volunteering

We are committed to expanding the volunteering opportunities our young people can access. We are proud of our work with partner organisations such as Barnardos, Dundee Volunteer & Voluntary Action, Police Scotland Youth Volunteering and many more. Where a young person's age is a barrier to accessing volunteering through outside organisations, we encourage them to volunteer their time in school, some ways this can be seen in the school are in our school library, in departments, at parent/carer evenings and school events.

Experiences

This area of the Pledge focuses on the wider experiences our young people have access to. This varies from year-to-year as it is co-created with our young people, ensuring their interests are considered. From annual surveys we find out what they would like and support these clubs in getting started. Our staff or young leaders will then volunteer to facilitate clubs/groups/trips/experiences.

We ask for your support to encourage your child to take advantage of these opportunities. The list below is a summary of the extra-curricular offer, updated in October 2023.

Monday				
Careers Drop-in	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	3206 (Careers Office)	Careers Advisors
Junior Singing Group & Silver Leng Medal	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	1308 (Music)	Mr Haxton
Mindful Colouring In Club	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	4102 (RMPS)	Mrs Thomas
Art Club	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	1411 (Art)	Ms McCormack
Homework Club	S1-S3	After School	2109 (English)	Mr Childs
Rugby	S1-S6	After School	Elliot Road	Mr Scoular & Mr Clark
Netball	S1-S6	After School	Games Hall	Mrs Kindlen & Miss Cairns
Tuesday				
Junior Debate Club	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	4108 (Modern Studies)	Miss McEwan
ESA 1 Drama Group	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	ESA 1	Mrs Craigie
Art Club	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	1411 (Art)	Ms McCormack
Badminton	S1-S6	After School	Games Hall	Mr Childs & Mr Walls
Wednesday				
LGBTQ+ Group	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	4102 (RMPS)	Miss Jessop
Drama Club & Panto	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	Drama Studio	Ms McTavish
Cosy Café	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	3110 (H.E.)	Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Munro
Homework Club	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	2107 (English)	Mr Hands
Guitar Group	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	1308 (Music)	Mr Philp
Senior Singers	S4-S6	Senior Lunchtime	1314 (Music)	Mr Love
Hockey	S1-S6	After School	PE Department	Mrs Dorward
Table Tennis	S1-S6	After School	PE Department	DDTTA

Thursday				
Art Club	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	1412 (Art)	Miss Cairns
Senior Rock Band	S4-S6	Senior Lunchtime	1314 (Music)	Mr Philp
Careers Drop-in	S4-S6	Senior Lunchtime	3206 (Careers Office)	Careers Advisors
Learn to Swim	S4-S6	Senior Lunchtime	Swimming Pool	Miss Cruickshank
Velocity Dance Group	S1-S6	After School	Dance Studio	Mrs Kindlen
Basketball	S1-S6	After School	Games Hall	Mr Duffy
Running	S1-S6	After School	PE Department	Mr MacDonald
Friday				
Geography Club	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	4111 (Geography)	Miss Quirk
Junior Rock Band	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	1315 (Music)	Miss Dvorakova & Mr Haxton
Percussion Group	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	1308 (Music)	Mrs Robinson
LEGO Club	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	Science	Mr Anderson
Chess Club	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	Library	Mrs Hunter & Mr Clark
Eco Schools	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	4213 (Science)	Mrs McLagan
Newspaper/ Photography Club	S1-S3	Junior Lunchtime	1410	Miss McCormack

Music

A range of co-curricular activities are on offer within the Music Department. Sometimes these activities change from year to year depending on pupil interests. We have a long, proud, and flourishing musical tradition and a high proportion of young people are involved in music-making of one kind or another. Musicians take part in two large events – a Christmas Carol Concert and a Spring/Summer Concert. Our musicians play a prominent part in the life of the school community, providing entertainment for whole school charity and social events and performing in the community in care homes and at Former Pupil Association events.

Instrumental tuition

Instrumental tuition is provided by visiting teachers in the following disciplines:

- Woodwind
- Brass
- Percussion
- Strings (violin/viola & cello)
- Piano
- Guitar
- Bagpipes

Tuition usually involves a weekly lesson during the school day which changes weekly on a rotational basis.

All young people who join Harris Academy in S1 are offered the opportunity to take up a lesson in one of these disciplines. Demand for lessons is normally far in excess of provision and a selection procedure is therefore essential. All S1 pupils are issued with a letter inviting them to apply for instrumental lessons at the start of each session.

Any young person who already receives instrumental tuition in their primary school will automatically carry on this tuition in Harris Academy unless the parent/carer advises otherwise.

Instruments are available to hire to pupils involved in this scheme and parents are required to arrange insurance cover for any loss or damage.

There is no annual charge for lessons or instrumental hire.

Young people who learn an instrument have the opportunity to take part in central music activities provided by the Dundee Instrumental Music Service.

Drama

The Drama Department provides a range of co-curricular activities for our young people. These activities change from year to year depending on pupil interests, but include clubs that develop skills in acting, directing, producing, theatre arts and film making. Each year, junior pupils prepare and present a pantomime, which is performed for parents and carers as well as Primary 7 pupils from our associated primary schools.

The accommodation in both the Music and Drama departments is available at lunch times and after school for pupils to practise and rehearse.

Sport and Games

As with all co-curricular activities, the range of sports offered to young people may vary from year to year.

All pupils take part in a wide range of activities in their P.E. classes which are part of the normal curriculum, but, in addition, there are a number of games which are played competitively between Houses or against other schools out with the school. These normally include:

Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Dance, Netball, Rugby, Running, Swimming, Table Tennis, Water Polo, Football and Hockey

We enjoy a good reputation for sportsmanship and for high standards of achievement. Those who run our teams insist on the highest standards of sporting behaviour. Many of our pupils achieve very high standards and in recent years many have represented their country. We recognise the achievements of our young people and award International Ties to those who have represented their country in a National Team. These have been awarded for a wide variety of sporting activities ranging from football and rugby to cheerleading and judo.

Community

We encourage our pupils to take a responsible interest in their local environment and in their local community. Many are involved as individuals, volunteering in hospitals, old people's homes, nurseries, playgroups and primary schools, but there are some collective projects as well.

Fund-raising for charity is one of the most practical ways of expressing concern for others and our pupils give very generously, not just in terms of money, but in terms of effort. The biggest fund-raiser in recent years has been our Christmas Appeal, supporting local charities and families in our own community but there are many smaller enterprises, sometimes by individuals or small groups as part of their social education programme or our Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). Most of the money from these goes to local charities.

Educational Excursions

We encourage and promote opportunities for learning to take place outside the classroom. Part of this type of learning is delivered in the form of educational trips and visits. Many departments offer opportunities for young people to participate in local, national and international trips and visits. These are planned to support and enhance the curriculum and every effort is made to make them as accessible as possible.

Some of the trips and visits currently offered to our Young People include, but are not limited to:

- Edinburgh Playhouse Theatre Trip
- South of France Watersports Trip
- Dynamic Earth
- Ski Trip to the Italian Alps
- Dundee Science Centre
- V&A
- Museums
- Avertical World
- RRS Discovery and HMS Unicorn