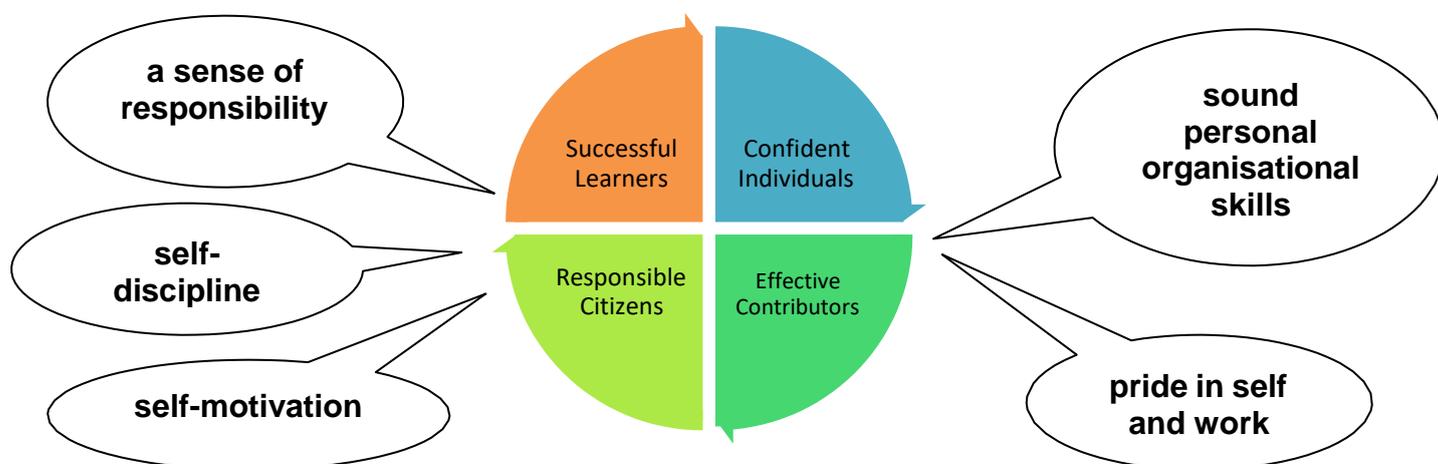




The Junior School

Our Aims

The aims of the Junior School take account of its unique position within Dollar Academy for it forms a transitional stage between the Prep and Senior Schools. Increased demands placed upon the children in J1 and J2 require a supportive environment in which we seek to encourage:



Above all, we aim to build up self-respect and confidence in an environment which values the contribution of all and encourages children to develop as wide a variety of interests as possible.

Organisation

The Junior School spans two age groups — P6 and P7, known at Dollar as Junior 1 and Junior 2. There are three classes at J1 level and four in J2; the majority of those entering the Senior School have experienced the solid foundations offered throughout Dollar's primary years.

All classes are of mixed ability and each has its own class teacher, who has pastoral oversight of the children in his/her care. This includes monitoring each child's academic progress as well as taking an active part in their social development.

Curriculum



The Junior staff co-operate closely amongst themselves and with Senior School colleagues to achieve a well-balanced curriculum which the children enjoy and from which they learn and make progress. Each curriculum area is grounded in the recommendations of the 'Curriculum for Excellence' Guidelines and is taught by primary or subject specialists.

English Language, Religious and Moral Education, Maths, ICT and Health and Wellbeing are taught by all class teachers.

For much of the year, History, Geography and Science are taught by class teachers who specialise in these areas. At certain times, a more integrated approach to learning is being followed.

Music, Art, P.E. and Games, Computing, Enterprise, Home Economics, EDT and a Modern Language (French, German or Spanish) are taught by Senior School specialists.



The Support for Learning Department offers additional help to those children who will benefit from one-to-one assistance, whether it is to overcome a specific difficulty or to provide specific work in Maths or English Language.

Homework is set on a regular basis, often for the following day but sometimes for the following week; in this way, the children are beginning to discipline themselves and organise their time.

Continuous assessment ensures that each child's progress is constantly monitored. Internal assessments are undertaken at appropriate times throughout the year. An informal Information Evening early in the academic year and two, more formal, Parents' Evenings offer opportunities for parent-teacher contact, but parents are welcome to contact the school whenever the need arises. Reports are sent to parents in mid-June.

Co-Curricular Activities



A wide variety of activities takes place during lunchtimes and after school. All children are encouraged to participate to increase their range of skills and interests for the future.



All members of J1 participate in a Musical Evening in the second term whilst those in J2 take part in a Musical in their third term. Recent musical productions include *Alice in Wonderland*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Olivia*, *The Lion King*, *Peter Pan*, *Singing' in the Rain*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Other annual events include a Harvest Assembly, Science Fair, Burns Competition and supper, Carol Service, Cross Country Championships, Swimming Gala and Sports Weekend.



Outings are arranged to local places of interest and an opportunity is given to the J2 pupils to enjoy a longer visit away from home. In 2020, every child in J2 enjoyed five days at Benmore by Dunoon. J1 pupils, too, enjoy a two-night trip to Largs, incorporating a visit to Cumbrae and the opportunity to use the facilities at Inverclyde National Sports Centre. Junior pupils also have the opportunity to take part in the biannual Easter Ski Tour.



Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis and Athletics fixtures against schools throughout central Scotland take place regularly and recent records are very good.

Contact with Senior School

Pupils benefit from the range of facilities available within this 5 - 18 school. Whilst retaining the best of primary practice, the opportunity to begin to experience a more subject-based approach to teaching and learning is a feature of the Junior School. This prepares the children well for the transition to the senior school.

On-Going Developments

Covid permitting, we hope, in March 2022, to run the 5-day residential experience at Benmore Centre, by Dunoon which promises to be a highlight for another group of J2 children. Likewise, the two-night stay at Sport Scotland, Largs will be eagerly anticipated by those in J1.

Junior School staff always have a good rapport with the parents of the children we teach and we ask that parents continue to contact us if there is a cause for concern or celebration!

With the 'Curriculum for Excellence' now in place, it is the staff's collective responsibility to ensure that we are helping the children of the Junior School to become 'successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors'. We will continue to adapt our curriculum as we strive for excellence for children of all levels of ability.

A record of the highlights of each session appears on the Junior School section of the Academy website. This, of course, is but a snapshot of the range of activities and achievements enjoyed by the children in this part of the school.

www.dollaracademy.org.uk

2021-2022 Staffing

Mrs A Morrison
Head of Prep and Junior School

Mrs M Barbour
Deputy Head of Prep and Junior School

Miss S Renton
Assistant Head of Junior School

Mr T Dann
Mrs K Thomson
Miss H Holloway
Mrs N Letford
Miss A Sheridan
Miss E Sharma
Miss Campbell