

## **Junior School & Nursery Information**



***“Learning should be fun.”***

This is the principle at the heart of life in the Junior School.

Dame Allan's Junior School is an innovative and successful Junior School based near the centre of Newcastle with easy access via public transport or road. The Junior School and Nursery is a purpose-built, state of the art facility opened in September 2012. Nursery, Reception and KS1 occupy the ground floor classrooms with a music room and dining hall/sports hall by the main entrance. The main building has playgrounds that wrap around it with a netball court behind the school and a MUGA and field space off to the side. We make very best use of the space available in our wooded six acre city centre site with the children able to access all areas for a range of different activities.

### **Staff**

Our Junior School & Nursery have it's own Headteacher and Deputy Head and a Head of Early Years. In Early Years there is a Nursery Teacher who is supported by three Nursery Nurses and two Reception Teachers are supported by an additional two Nursery Nurses.

In the Junior School, it is two form entry in Years 1, 2, 3 & 4 and then three form entry in Years 5 & 6. The teachers in each year group work closely together and collaborate across the Key Stage. In addition, there are a number of specialist teachers including an SEN Coordinator, Music and Drama teacher and two part time teachers who provide teaching in specialist areas of the curriculum. Sport is a very important part of life at the Junior School and is led by a Head of Junior Girls' Sport and a Head of Junior Boys' Sport who are assisted by a Sport Teaching Assistant.



A number of our Senior School teachers also either come to the Junior School to teach or teach our pupils when they are visiting the Senior School to provide specific, specialist curriculum teaching and work alongside Junior School staff.

### **The Early Years Curriculum**

In Nursery and Reception the curriculum is designed around the principle of active learning, so that children may develop socially, emotionally and intellectually. This contributes to the happy, stimulating environment for children at the start of their time in education at Dame Allan's Schools.

The Nursery and Reception children also take part in music, singing and drama performances helping with confidence and their transition into the Junior School. Physical activity plays an important role in the pupils' lives at this age as we establish enthusiasm and excitement for sport and physical movement alongside their academic learning.

### **Junior School Curriculum**

Dame Allan's Junior School offers a broad and balanced curriculum in which the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science are strongly promoted in all year groups.

Lessons in all subjects are well structured and varied which maintains the children's interest, enthusiasm and motivation and there are many educational visits to enhance the children's learning. Children are encouraged to make good use of the school's library and to develop their computing skills from the very earliest age.



As classes are small (max. 15 in Reception/KS1 and 20 in KS2), pupils make rapid progress in academic studies, which leaves plenty of time to expand children's physical and creative talents.

At Dame Allan's, the Creative Arts are valued as a vehicle to promote confidence and expression: the children receive music, art, drama and dance lessons each week, all taught by specialist teachers, and children thoroughly enjoy taking part in performances. Many of our pupils receive instrumental tuition in one of our music practice rooms. Our choir is particularly popular and enjoys performing at various events and concerts during the year.

Sport plays a huge part of life at Dame Allan's Junior School with participation and success in competitions enjoying real growth in recent years. We strive to create opportunities for all the children to play sport at an appropriate level in a competitive environment with a focus on learning and development. All children are given opportunities to play in competitive fixtures in a variety of sports; fixtures provide the pupils with an opportunity to test their skills, experience pressure and develop resilience and teamwork. However, our main focus is always the development of each individual within the game.

### **Junior School Extra-curricular programme**

The extra-curricular programme at the Junior School is vital in enhancing children's skills and enjoyment in learning and there are many clubs providing this. These clubs range from drama and dance to warhammer gaming, from hockey to rugby, from athletics to cricket, from football to irish dancing, from art to science, from karate to fencing and from computing to chess.

As a school we feel it is important to inspire and enthuse children's creativity and imagination – whether they be in music, drama, dance or sport – whilst recognising the value of traditional academic subjects and the importance of these to their successes in the future.



### **Pastoral Care**

At the heart of everything we do is a concern for the welfare of each of our pupils. We are incredibly proud of the pastoral support that we offer our children. In Dame Allan's Junior School and Nursery, we work hard to ensure there is an environment in which each child feels cared for and important, enabling them to grow into happy, confident and resilient individuals. This is achieved through our formal pastoral system as well as the excellent relationships developed between the children and all adults in the school.

Day to day pastoral issues are met by class teachers who know the children very well and are fully aware of their individual circumstances and needs. As part of our dedicated pastoral team, we also benefit from the services of our school nurse and a counsellor who provides play therapy should a child require specific support.



Children at Dame Allan's have a platform from which they can thrive. Academic success, challenge, leadership opportunities, teamwork and, above all, respect for self and others are the foundations upon which life at Dame Allan's is built. Above all, our children thrive in our happy and purposeful atmosphere, where there is always a happy buzz of activity.

*'Attitudes to learning are excellent. Pupils are highly competent, independent learners with the maturity to listen to others, as well as the confidence to propose their own ideas. Teaching encourages independence and promotes self-confidence which allows pupils to take their own initiative'*

**ISI, 2019**

## **The Role of the Class Teacher**

In implementation of all responsibilities and duties, a Class Teacher should show a commitment to the aims, policies and ethos of the school, and endeavour to maintain these through personal conduct and effective relationships with colleagues, pupils and parents.

The responsibilities of a Class Teacher are to:

- Take charge of and teach a class to develop the knowledge, skills, understanding and abilities of each pupil.
- Understand and value the pastoral needs of each pupil in the class.
- Be responsible for overseeing the social development and monitoring the academic progress of each pupil in the class.
- Encourage and maintain positive working relationships with parents and to be available to talk to them at any reasonable time to meet the needs of each pupil in the class.
- Liaise with all other staff teaching their class in order to assess pupils' progress and report to parents.
- Maintain good order in the classroom and around the school.
- Provide an excellent role model to the children in their attitude, manners and appearance.
- Safeguard the health and safety of themselves and others in accordance with the Schools' Health and Safety Policy.
- Keep up to date records in accordance with school policy, following guidelines on marking and assessment.
- Produce clear lessons based on the schemes of work.
- Maintain a disciplined and well organised classroom which provides a lively learning environment.
- Maintain the class register.
- Maintain a Weekly Planner.
- Attend such occasions (e.g. parents' evenings) as are deemed part of the annual cycle of the school year.

- Undertake duties as directed by the management of the Junior School
- Attend such after school meetings as the Head of Junior School might consider necessary for the efficient running of the School.
- Contribute to extra-curricular activities.

**If you have any queries, or would like to discuss the post in more detail, please do not hesitate to email the Head of Junior School and Nursery, Geoff Laidler, at [gm.laidler@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:gm.laidler@dameallans.co.uk)**





