

Nursery

For 3–5 Year Olds



Play

Discover

Learn

Prospectus

The future belongs to the curious,
the ones who are not afraid to try it.

Play with it, **Discover** it, **Learn** about it
and turn it inside out.





Creating the Best Foundation

Children have an amazing capacity to learn... their energy is captivating and infectious. During the most important foundation years at Hamilton College, the opportunities to learn, to be inspired, challenged and develop are limitless.

Providing the right setting is a key part of a successful foundation, which is why we have created an environment for our children that is innovative and creative, yet warm and most importantly set up for them... a new way to educate bright, inquiring minds from 3 to 5 years.

Each child's progress is carefully nurtured; their strengths and passions uncovered to discover how they can be further stimulated and developed, with tailored learning experiences.

Your child will have the best introduction to their learning journey, with dynamic teaching staff fully qualified and experienced in Early Years, proven child-centered pedagogy designed to develop confident learners, and a curriculum aimed at academic, social and emotional success.

From the start of their Hamilton College journey, children's innate learning ability is awakened, allowing them to utilise structure and responsibility in the context of fun and socialisation. Since academic and physical development are inextricably linked, we focus on development of the whole child.

All of this provides a stimulating foundation for your child to flourish.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet your child.





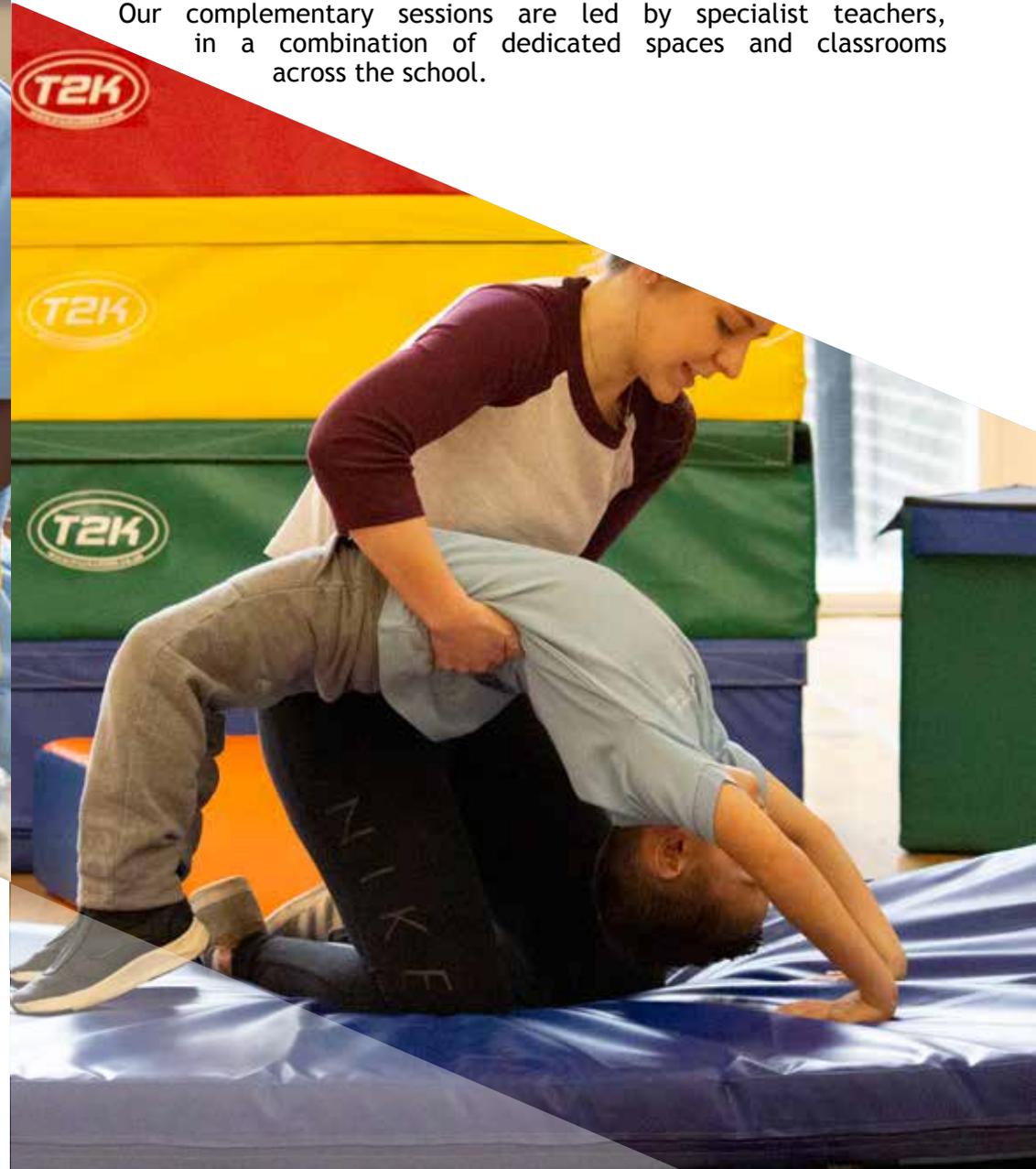
A World of Opportunities Under One Roof

In the Nursery we have four flexible spaces dedicated to **PLAY**, **DISCOVER**, **LEARN**. All aspects of the curriculum are embedded in the learning experiences which take place across all four rooms. Dedicated areas include: Literacy, Numeracy, Technologies, Music, imaginative play, construction, art and craft, Creation Station - junk modelling and collage, sensory and small world play.

A range of enrichment activities tailored for your child are held throughout the week.

Whether in our Hamilton College gym halls, Junior School Makerspace for STEM learning, our music room or our outdoor discovery space, your child's learning will take place in an environment which is structured entirely with them in mind.

Our complementary sessions are led by specialist teachers, in a combination of dedicated spaces and classrooms across the school.





Our Responsibilities

In our Nursery, we:

- provide a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment where children can become confident and independent individuals, developing the skills necessary for learning, life and work
- provide play based learning opportunities which build on children's interests and previous knowledge, responding to individual needs and learning styles
- promote responsible citizenship by respecting property and encouraging children to form positive attitudes towards others whose gender, race, culture, faith and abilities may be different from their own
- respect the rights and opinions of children ensuring they have opportunities to become effective contributors and play an active part in their learning and the life of the Nursery

- work in partnership with parents and carers, respecting home life and recognising the vital contribution they make to a child's development and learning
- engage in collaborative work with other professionals to create an optimum learning environment and smooth transitions from Nursery to Junior School
- Encourage children to think creatively, develop their problem solving skills and improve their ability to assess risk in the environment
- Prioritise outdoor play as a daily occurrence. Our outdoor learning space is equipped with a curriculum cabin, mud kitchen, large sandpit, bikes, scooters, garden beds and an alfresco zone where children explore and develop their own initiatives





Health and Wellbeing

Keeping Children Safe and Secure

The health and safety of the children in our care is of paramount importance and is reflected in our provision and practice. This includes:

- secure door entry system at Hamilton College front entrance and Nursery door
- a signing in system for both parents and children
- robust staff training in health and safety, child protection and first aid
- regular fire evacuation and lock down drills
- daily risk assessments carried out on playrooms, outdoor spaces and activities
- enhanced staff to children ratios

Snacks and Lunchtime Experience

The Hamilton College Catering department has been awarded the national Healthy Living award. This award recognises and rewards catering establishments that offer a menu based on the general principles of a healthy balanced diet that has been developed to be in keeping with Scottish dietary targets.

The Nursery children choose from a varied menu each day. They eat with their peers, staff and Junior School children in the dining hall, promoting lunchtimes as social occasions used to highlight nutrition and shape eating patterns.

Eating together with Junior School helps the children with their transition from Nursery and provides an opportunity to see their siblings and friends. Buddies from J6 help and support Nursery children during their lunchtime experience.

All snacks are included in the fees. A two course hot lunch is also included in the cost of a full day session. Allergies or special dietary requirements are catered for as needed.





Nursery children are required to meet the entrance criteria into Junior 1.

All children will be invited to attend an Experience Day in January where their readiness for school will be assessed.



Transition

The transition to Junior School is seamless. Through our robust continual transition programme, children adapt confidently within already familiar surroundings. The children take part in a range of transition activities including attending assemblies, activities with J1 pupils such as visits to the Makerspace, picnic lunches and classroom activities, weekly contact with J6 buddies and whole school events such as sports days, Infant Nativity and special events.



Parental Involvement

The Nursery operates an open door policy and we welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with parents and carers. Parents and carers will be invited to participate in a range of events including *stay and play* sessions, parent consultations and ongoing evaluations of service delivery.

Communication

Staff provide informal updates on your child's learning and development on a daily basis. More formal parent-staff consultations are held twice a year in October and March.

We will keep you informed through:

- monthly newsletters
- digital learning journals (parents are able to access and comment on this portfolio)
- Hamilton College Website, Facebook and Twitter pages
- displays in Nursery reception and cloakroom

Opening Hours and Pattern of Attendance

Care is provided from 8am - 6pm daily and operates on a term time basis in line with the rest of the school. The Nursery is closed on public holidays and inset days. Children are able to attend holiday camps held in our campus.

Children can attend for half or full day sessions. The Nursery operates a flexible system of attendance where parents can select sessions that fit around work and family life. We have a 3 session minimum across the week.

Uniform

Our Nursery uniform consists of a burgundy polo shirt, fleece and jacket. These items are available to purchase online, in store or by telephone from our school uniform partner, Stevensons.



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