



# HEADFORT SENIOR ONE

**Would you like your child to have a transitional year before starting Secondary School?**

**Are they young for their class? Would you like them to have an extra year to develop their independent learning and enhance their leadership skills?**

Senior 1 is a one-year programme that is designed to act as a bridge between Sixth Class/Form and First Year in Post Primary.

**Headfort School can offer your child an extra year's experiential learning at primary school level.**



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**In S1 there is a greater emphasis on personal growth and the development of leadership, critical thinking skills and self-directed learning.**

This experiential year can offer your child the time, space, and opportunity to step away from a highly structured environment to one where they can take greater responsibility for their own personal and academic learning.

This Senior 1 class is not a repeat sixth class option but models itself on transition year pros – like the opportunity to mature, take on leadership roles, gain different experiences and opportunities, get to know new people, and learn how to work as part of a team on project work.



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There are also many other reasons why a delayed transfer to post primary school can be particularly helpful to some children, for example, those who were born in summer months and are now almost a year younger than the oldest children in their class, for children, who from a social and emotional point of view are less confident and self-assured or for the child whose final year in primary education has been interrupted and disrupted by COVID-19.



**This extra year also greatly benefits children by providing them an opportunity to develop many skills required at post primary level.**

For example, the transition to a more subject centered curriculum enables them to become familiar with highly structured timetables. The use of timetables in Senior 1 also requires a child to manage their time and develop organisational skills to a degree that was not as necessary in their primary settings to date.

**As Headfort School also attracts international pupils, this gives Senior 1 children an opportunity to develop friendships with children from all over the world and in doing so develop a broader understanding of different cultures.**

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**For children who will board as secondary school pupils, Headfort School's boarding options also offer them the chance to adjust to life away from home a year in advance!**

Curriculum subjects for Senior 1 include an opportunity to consolidate learning in the core subjects of English, Math and Irish. Science subjects include Chemistry, Physics and Biology as separate strands, which language choices include French, Spanish or Latin. S1 pupils also engage in History, Geography, and Music, and spend 1.5 hours playing a structured sport outdoors each day. S1 students also participate in a drama or a musical each year. Some of the most prominent learning experiences include creating a school newspaper, developing entrepreneurial skills via a mini-company and the opportunity to engage in an on-site work placement. Alongside this curriculum, shorter modules and other learning experiences are interwoven. For example, computer literacy, debating and road safety awareness. In addition, boarders can opt to participate in subjects such as cooking or carpentry in the evening.

Other optional extras include horse riding, tennis or playing an instrument of choice. As well as that, Headfort School also boasts an impressive Art and Design department. While weekly stand-alone classes in Positive Psychology develop resilience and harness positive emotions, strengths and virtues that make children thrive.



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## BROADER LEARNING EXPERIENCES

**Newspaper** Pupil's research, writing and presentation skills are put to practical use as they create the school newspaper. Once they have brainstormed ideas, they work individually or with a partner to gather information for their topics in the newspaper. This may involve doing their own research, gathering information from students in other classes or even interviewing staff in the school. Then they present their findings as an article, which often includes a photo, a graph or an activity to help engage the reader.

**Business** Students complete an entrepreneurship programme focused on product development, marketing, budgeting and selling of their product.

**Computer Literacy** This module introduces pupils to computer literacy in a safe and exciting way. Pupils will become familiar with Google workspace and associated forums to enhance their IT skills.

**Debating** S1 invites pupils to explore and debate some of the biggest questions facing our world today. Pupils will learn how to research, select, and evaluate material. They will acquire the skills of speech writing and then through lively and informed debating all students will gain confidence and skills in speaking in front of their peers.

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**I've Got Something to Say** This module focuses on developing pupil's oral presentation skills and will help learners become effective and confident communicators. It gives learners a great sense of personal achievement as they fulfill the personal goal of speaking with confidence in front of an audience.

**Environmental Awareness** This covers a range of environmental issues such as Climate Change, Pollinator Decline, Food Waste and Pollution.

**Road Safety** Road Safe takes an active project-based approach to developing the values and skills which underpin responsible decision-making and respect for the rights and safety of others. The unit is supported by digital resources on the Road Safety Authority website.

**Young Social Innovators** A pupil-led, team-based and action-focused transition unit enables young people co-design and create innovative responses to social issues they care about. Participation enables pupils to develop 21st century skills for life and work as well as giving them a voice and agency on the issues that matter to them.



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## SENIOR ONE AT A GLANCE

Senior One Curriculum Overview

One of the strengths of S1 is that Headfort School creates and tailors its programme based on what works best for their pupils.

### Get In Touch

If you are interested in your children joining the Headfort community please let us know as we can arrange a personal taster experience of the school.

To arrange a visit or to learn more about our senior one programme please contact Mary at [admissions@headfortschool.com](mailto:admissions@headfortschool.com)

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