



# HEADFORT SCHOOL





## HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our wonderful school. This prospectus will give you a flavour of the unique and amazing experience that awaits your child at Headfort. From the experience of attending school in Headfort House, to the 'forts', the extensive extra curricular activities, and engaging lessons we truly offer an amazing school.

As primary schools in Ireland continue to evolve, we in Headfort are aware of the necessity of offering added value. To that end we provide small class sizes, an enhanced curriculum, and an extensive sports programme. Headfort is unique in that it fosters lifetime relationships not only between pupils, but also between staff and pupils in a manner more common to secondary schools.

Those relationships last forever!

Happy pupils are paramount at Headfort. A happy child that has fun at school is a child that is ready to learn and blossom at Headfort. The pastoral care we supply enables this experience. Our school embraces a strong Character Values programme that encourages all children to practically understand the values needed to become positive role models to others.

A prospectus can only provide a small glimpse of what we really do at Headfort. I would invite you to make contact and come and visit us. Then you will be able to truly see the magic that is Headfort!

Philip McCormick  
Headmaster









**"An education  
that lasts a  
lifetime."**





# INTRODUCTION TO HEADFORT

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Headfort School sets itself apart in its liberal approach to education with small classes and subject-specialist teachers. A co-educational and non-denominational school, it offers outstanding, all-round primary education for both day and boarding pupils where sport and extra-curricular activities form an integral part of each school day.



Headfort is set among 60 acres of stunning grounds and is less than an hour from Dublin. The school boasts the unique backdrop of a Robert Adam's Ballroom.







**"Our setting  
allows an  
unrushed  
childhood."**



## OUR AIMS:

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- To provide an education like no other, fostering an environment in which children are able to learn, explore and play.
- To promote the educational development of each child, instilling confidence and recognising individual strengths and talent.
- To encourage sound moral values, centered around compassion and kindness; attitudes and habits that promote diversity and that foster inclusion.
- To prepare each child for their future education in post primary, regularly placing pupils in top Irish and British Independent and Secondary schools.
- To foster resilience, critical thinking and problem solving; essential skills in the context of our new global environment.
- To be a school of educational excellence by providing the highest level of academic attainment and personal development for each child.





**"Headfort encourages  
individuality in children."**







## **JUNIOR INFANTS – SECOND FORM**

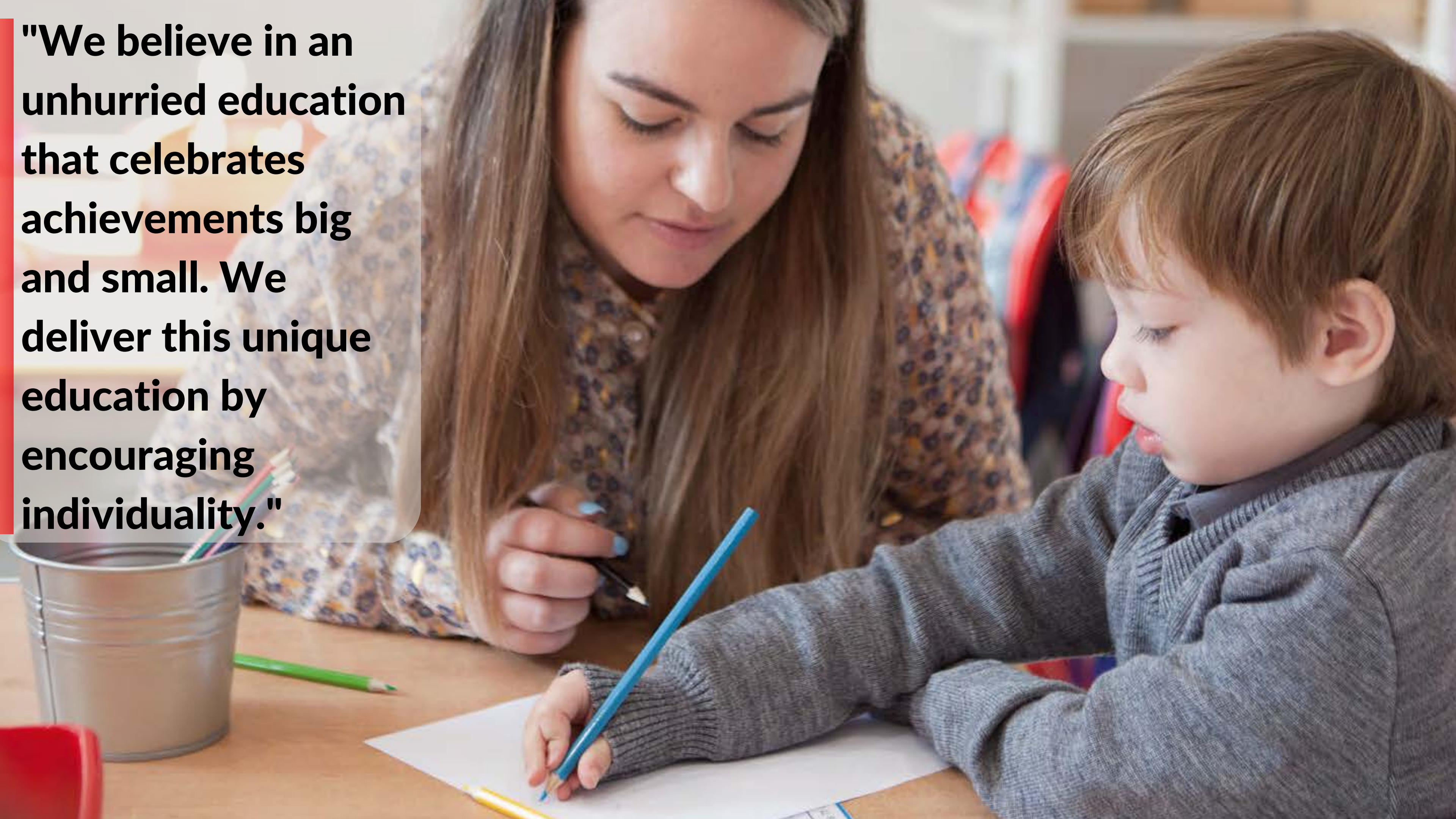
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The first four years of Headfort's programme compliments the Irish Primary school curriculum with dynamic, hands-on lessons that focus on exploration and play. Core subjects including Maths, English and Irish form the backbone of the syllabus. Pupils also engage in weekly sessions of PE, Ukulele, Music, French, SESE and Positive Psychology. We prioritise character development through the innovative Virtues Programme.

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Students can also avail of a number of extra-curricular activities including piano and guitar, drama and speech and drama. Our Infants classes are located in the imaginatively designed 'Forge' but pupils also get to enjoy the main school facilities such as eating in the main dining room and visiting their own dedicated library. This promotes the joy and love of reading that we encourage throughout the school.





**"We believe in an unhurried education that celebrates achievements big and small. We deliver this unique education by encouraging individuality."**



## 3rd FORM – S1

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From 3rd Form upwards we continue to cultivate a love of learning. In these classes the Irish Primary School Curriculum broadens to include a subject-led approach. As a private prep school we have the flexibility and scope to expand the pupils' learning and experiences through classes such as Science, Spanish, French, English, Mathematics, History, and Geography as well as through sports such as Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, and Athletics.



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In Headfort School we implement different teaching approaches, draw on best teaching practices, international perspectives and our extensive extra curricular programme.





**"With the introduction of our Character Values programme, we aim to introduce pupils to the language and examples of key character building traits."**





## SENIOR 1

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This Senior 1 class is not a repeat sixth class option, but instead models itself on a Transition Year programme. This year gives pupils 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 is a greater emphasis on personal growth and the development of leadership, critical thinking skills and self-directed learning. This experiential year offers pupils 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.





# CURRICULUM

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Children study English, Maths, French or Spanish, History, Geography, Science (Chemistry, Physics and Biology are taught as standalone subjects on a termly basis utilising a fully equipped laboratory), Religious Studies, Music, Art & Design, Computing, Positive Psychology and a choice between Irish and Latin & Classics.



The school has specialist Art & Design rooms with a traditional studio and a Computer Design laboratory.





**"We understand that no two children are the same. Therefore all pupils will navigate education in their own way."**





## SPORT

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Headfort School has a very vibrant sports culture and team sport forms an integral part of each school day from 3rd Form upwards. We strongly believe in the benefits of participating in team sport, promoting teamwork, and a sense of community as well as obtaining the health benefits that go along with regular exercise.

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The core sports played at Headfort are Rugby, Hockey, Athletics, Cricket, Basketball, Football and Softball or Rounders and matches are frequently played against other schools.







**"We ensure that each and every child can perform to the best of their academic ability."**



## MUSIC

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Each Form enjoys a weekly music lesson that is built into the curriculum and an elective choir option.



Additionally, we also offer one-on-one lessons in a selection of instruments (including piano, guitar, drums) as well as singing.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Headfort School prides itself on its ability to offer an extensive range of optional extra curricular activities to all pupils.

The pursuits offered include extra Art, Carpentry, Cookery, Speech and Drama, and Tennis. Drama is also a popular choice with productions taking place in the school theatre each year.



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The landscape around Headfort provides an expansive 'playground', from the classical topiary at the front of the house to the 'forts' in the woods to the back, where children are encouraged to play and explore safely.





**"We aspire to academic excellence whilst providing a place where strong and enduring relationships are able to flourish from an early age."**







Headfort is also unique in its ability to offer horse riding as an extracurricular activity for all ability levels, with beautiful grounds for hacking, cross-country and a purpose-built outdoor manège.



Children are able to stable their ponies at school if they wish and the summer term plays host to an annual gymkhana where they are able to showcase their progress.



## STRUCTURE OF SCHOOL DAY

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As well as the option to board, Headfort offers wrap-around-care for day pupils making it a flexible choice for parents. Our Junior Infants – 2nd Form begin their day at 8.30am and finish at 3.00 pm. An after-school facility is available on site until 5.45pm.

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From 3rd Form upwards the school day runs from 8.30am until 6.00pm. This structure incorporates playtime, sports, extra-curricular activities and prep time (homework). A breakfast club for pupils starts at 8.00am each day.







**"We encourage a broad approach to learning: an all-round education."**



# PASTORAL

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An enormous emphasis is placed on the wellbeing of all pupils.

Form teachers monitor the individual progress of each child and our small size allows us to develop meaningful relationships with all of our pupils. Teachers and Matrons prioritise listening and are always available to offer help and support when required or needed.

There are several proactive initiatives implemented to support the social and emotional development of all our pupils. Our Character Values programme introduces an awareness and the language of key life values such as honesty, integrity and kindness.

The school also has a dedicated chef and offers a nutritionally-balanced menu for all our students from Junior Infants onwards.





## BOARDING

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Children may board from the age of 10 years old. We pride ourselves on our ability to seamlessly transition our pupils offering them a caring, fun environment. Our boarding community is an internationally diverse body with pupils from Ireland, UK, Spain, France, USA, and China.

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Flexi (maximum 2 nights a week) and 'sleep-overs' for day pupils are welcomed. We have a team of dedicated matrons and houseparents who create a home-from-home atmosphere for our pupils, organising nightly activities such as table quizzes, games nights, as well as end of term parties.

Befitting our close and small community, there is a longstanding tradition of boarders being frequently welcomed home by their friends at weekends.





**"In our experience, pupils that board at Headfort are very well prepared for future boarding experiences and tend to settle much quicker in their chosen Secondary Schools."**















## **COME AND VISIT US**

**We invite you to visit Headfort and  
experience all the magic and uniqueness  
that the school has to offer.**









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