



Academic Year  
2024 - 2025

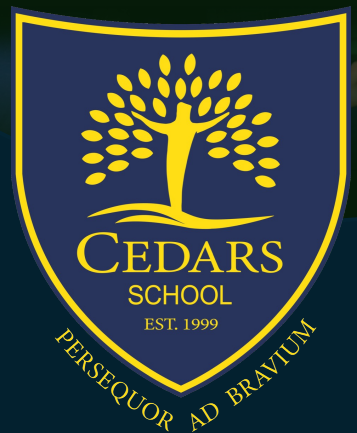
# Where Every Child Belongs

Admissions open

---

Contact us now to  
arrange a visit

E: [info@cedars.school](mailto:info@cedars.school)







# Head Teacher's Welcome

**Educating children is a wonderful privilege that brings significant responsibility – providing the best possible education and environment to prepare our young people for happiness and success in their lives, empowering them to make a positive contribution to their society. We take this responsibility seriously.**

**In a world that is changing at a faster pace than at any other time in history, a happy, well-rounded education has never been more important.**

A Cedars education is designed to bring out the gifts and talents of each child, as our pupils participate in a wide variety of activities and life experiences. Junior School enjoys a rich curriculum engaging in many out of school activities such as gymnastics, skiing, Forest Fridays, and educational day trips. Junior 6 and 7 pupils begin to integrate with Senior school life, being taught in Masterclasses in Art, English, French, Maths, Sciences, and Social Studies. Senior School pupils achieve strong academic results above the national average. Our business mentor programme prepares pupils for 'life after school,' creating tailor-made pathways through their final years, ensuring all leave with positive destinations and the connections and skills they need to thrive. We prepare children for the opportunities of a global modern world. Each pupil has an iPad providing extensive resources in digital learning, communication, and presentation skills. Our phone-free school has strengthened our efforts to teach positive digital habits.

Cedars pupils do not endure school – they enjoy it! As a one campus school, spanning Junior 1 to Senior 6, pupils enjoy smooth transitions, and small class sizes allow each child to be known by staff and receive the support, challenge and guidance they require according to age, aptitude and ability. We encourage strong values such as care and respect for others, and polite and responsible behaviour. We teach pupils to think of others, and use their abilities to help their communities. Regular school events, parent-teacher interactions, and co - curricular activities foster a strong sense of belonging and camaraderie among pupils and families.

**With a broad co-curriculum, a strong pastoral focus, and individual academic pathways throughout each child's education - Cedars School is the place where every child thrives. Tradition meets innovation in this aspirational community founded on Christian values and ethos.**

**I extend a very warm welcome to you to visit our school and discover more about what makes The Cedars Experience so unique.**

Emma J. Rukin

Head Teacher

[er@cedars.school](mailto:er@cedars.school)





# Our Values and our Faith

**Our values are underpinned by our Christian faith**

## Compassion

We care for one another and want to act to make a better world.

## Respect

We respect one another's right to safety and dignity. We speak to each other with calmness, politeness, and civility.

## Do our best

We always strive to do our best in every task we undertake.

## Do unto others

We actively think about how we would like to be treated if we were in the other person's situation.

## Teamwork

We work together because we know that we can achieve more as a team than as individuals.

## Accountability

We hold ourselves accountable for our actions, admit when we fail our standards, strive to be our best selves.

We encourage our pupils to understand the Christian faith. We hold school assemblies where Christ's teaching is explained and have church services at key times in the Christian calendar.

There is no requirement to have a Christian faith to be part of our school community. We strongly believe that teaching the Gospel of Christ and the Love of God helps all our pupils to make sense of the world we live in and become caring, confident individuals with a respect for others and a desire to serve their community.

**We welcome pupils from all faiths and none.**

# Our Educational Philosophy

The educational experience in Cedars School is based upon the building of knowledge, through intellectual study and broadening and enriching life experiences.

A hallmark of our school is the mentoring of our young people by their teachers. Our relationships are firm and caring. We have **high aspirations** for our pupils, valuing all pathways through the education journey including vocational callings and academic routes. In whatever line of work or study our young people find themselves in, we want them to excel at their chosen task and make a significant contribution to our society and the world.

Former pupils have gone on to achieve great success as doctors, linguists, engineers, scientists, teachers, nurses, entrepreneurs, bankers, mechanics, artists and more. We are immensely proud of their achievements.



Former pupil testimonial: A Cedars education means you are so ready to thrive in the world of university and work. I am really loving my degree at the University of Glasgow and owe my confidence to the inspiring education I received at Cedars.

# Our Junior School

Our Juniors experience a broad and exciting curriculum within a nurturing environment, that focuses on supporting each pupil to achieve their potential.



## Home Rooms and mornings

Each morning, our Juniors meet in their Home Rooms to settle and prepare for the day, before they break into smaller numeracy and literacy groups. Our Learning support specialists ensure that every pupil is challenged and supported to make progress at their own pace.



## Afternoons

In the afternoons, Junior 1 - 7 continue with their broad curricular experiences including French, Drama, Science, Social Studies, Discovery, RME, Health and Wellbeing, PE, and Technology. We use our Discovery Room for artistic projects, for larger group creative lessons, Big Art Afternoons, and for learning through play.



## Discovery

Discovery is the Junior school stage of our Stepping Stones and Gateway programmes, designed to enable all our pupils to become **confident, connected communicators** with the skills and understanding they need to excel in their chosen field.



In Discovery, pupils learn collaboratively and expand their understanding of themselves, their community, and their world. Projects include 'My World of Work,' 'Technology Time,' and 'Whatever the Weather!' In drama and music, all pupils take part in the **annual Nativity play**, as well as **singing** at local care homes and at **school events**.



# Our Junior School

Discovering our world and our place in it...

## Junior 6 and 7 Masterclass Afternoons

Junior 6 and Junior 7 have **Masterclass afternoons**, 3 - 4 days a week, where they receive subject specialist tuition, preparing them for subjects in senior school and inspiring a wide enjoyment of academic subjects.

## PE

Pupils have a weekly sports coaching session and a varied programme of other activities throughout the year, including skiing, swimming, and gymnastics.

## Trips and outdoor learning

Recent day trips in our Junior School include:

- The Sealife Centre at Lomond Shores
- The Tall Ship in Glasgow
- The McLean Museum in Greenock
- Monty's Farm Park in Dumbarton
- Local parks and beaches that the beautiful natural environment of the Clyde has to offer
- Forest Fridays – a chance to learn to love being immersed in nature, whatever the weather!
- The Glasgow Science Centre



# Our Senior School

**Senior 1 – Senior 6 in Cedars is a time of challenge and opportunity.**

**Our pupils thrive in smaller classes and tutorial groups. Expert teachers nurture potential and mentor pupils through this exciting stage in their school career.**

## **Gaining their full potential**

We structure these years in a way that allows our pupils to thrive. We understand that the Senior School phase can be challenging. We do everything we can to make these years successful, happy ones for each pupil. We ensure they have opportunity to develop the skills, connections, and sense of personal responsibility they need to achieve their potential in school and beyond.

## **Pupil wellbeing and Guidance**

Weekly Health and Wellbeing sessions focus on building resilience, improving wellbeing, promoting positive behaviour and teaching strategies for positive mental wellbeing. Our pastoral system is a core strength of Cedars School, and we find the ethos of the school, makes a lasting input on the quality of friendships within the school, and in life after school.

## **Responsibility and Opportunities**

Senior School pupils enjoy opportunities to become involved in the wider life of the school and gain an increasing sense of responsibility that comes with these. They are involved in running the Senior school extra-curricular clubs and play a significant role in the Pupil Council.

**A key component of school life in S5 and S6 is Gateway which is explained in more detail under ‘The Cedars Difference’.**



**Former pupil testimonial:** I admire the traditional ethos of our school that promotes hard work and togetherness



# Our Senior School

**Confident, connected communicators.**

## **Athletic achievement**

In PE we encourage good natured competition. We run an Award Scheme called **Athlete of the Day** and **Athlete of the Term**. Externally we join with other schools and take part in events such as Inverclyde Warrior and Inverclyde Schools Cross Country Competition. Pupils know the local sports facilities well and we enjoy good links with sporting teams across Inverclyde and Renfrewshire. We encourage all pupils to establish healthy routines and support pupils looking for extra - curricular activities.

## **Greater independence**

S5 and S6 are given wider scope to fulfil their Physical Education allocation and have access to Inverclyde Leisure facilities, including the gym, badminton, tennis, and swimming. They are given assistance to create their own exercise programme.

## **Parent testimonial**

Every child at Cedars is given opportunities to learn presentation skills and give presentations. It has given my son confidence to talk to his peer group and speak to much wider audiences as well. As he leaves school I can see how much he has thrived at Cedars, and now leaves the school as a confident young man who is a credit to himself, his family and his school.



# Our Senior School

## Tailor-made academic pathways – success for all

### National Courses

Pupils undertake courses leading to qualifications at National 3, 4 & 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level. Pupils select from subjects including:

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Management
- Chemistry
- English
- French
- History
- Maths
- Modern Studies
- Physics
- Scottish Studies

### Study techniques

Senior School pupils are supported in this time of transition with input on study techniques.

### Academic responsibility

Alongside their studies pupils deepen their sense of personal responsibility for their own lives and for helping others, and work alongside teachers and members of the professional community to understand the best pathway for them as they plan for life after school.

### Broadening opportunities

Our link with [West College Scotland](#) provides increased opportunities for further vocational and academic study. Subjects currently studied by Cedars pupils include: Higher Psychology, N4 and N5 Criminology, Data Science, Film and TV Studies.

In S6, some students take courses with the [Young Applicants in Schools Scheme](#). YASS is a school-based programme run through the Open University in Scotland. These courses allow students to study a subject of particular interest at a preparatory level for university. We also work with Scottish Highers Online to offer Advanced Highers in a range of subjects.

Former Head Boy testimonial : I have gained so much from my Senior 6 year. For one of my options I have taken Advanced Higher History with Scottish Highers Online benefitting from online tutorials and in-school support. I am prepared and ready to engage with the academic world at university.



# The Cedars Difference

## Our Co - curriculum

We believe children and young people learn as much outside the classroom as they do inside it. The co-curriculum at Cedars School builds resilience, improves self-discipline, and teaches the skills required to work effectively as part of a team.

Our pastoral system helps pupils learn to be reflective about themselves and their experiences with the aim of understanding how they might improve, which helps to build self-reliance and a sense of personal responsibility. Each pupil has a *Learner Journal* where they record and reflect on co – curricular experiences. Our small class sizes mean pupils develop friendships across the age groups making for a richer peer group environment. We build on this with opportunities for co – curricular activities across age groups. Senior School pupils enjoy leading learning opportunities in the Junior School.

Just as importantly, our aim in our co – curricular programme is to ensure our children and young people take part in activities that provide fun and enjoyment – so important in an increasingly stress-driven world.

Have a look through the next pages to see some of the co – curricular opportunities that Cedars pupils enjoy.



# The Cedars Difference

## Stepping Stones Senior 1 – Senior 4

**Learn today, lead tomorrow.**

Stepping Stones is a core element of our approach to ensuring a well-rounded, whole-person educational experience in Senior School. One afternoon a week, pupils engage with visits from guest speakers, links with Skills Development Scotland, input from a variety of staff, and offsite visits. Pupils develop the skills and knowledge they need to take personal responsibility for leading a purposeful, compassionate, healthy life. They develop their understanding of themselves, the world around them, the needs of others, and how they can be outward looking, as they prepare for the future.

In recent months pupils have:

- Undertaken survival skills in the countryside around Greenock.
- Completed First Aid training with St Andrews.
- Heard from business owners on core skills in enterprise.
- Listened to former pupils speak on their experiences at various institutions including: City of Glasgow College, Oxford University, University of Glasgow, West College Scotland and Glasgow School of Art.
- Had a visit from a reformed drug addict from The Haven in Kilmacolm
- Completed CAP Money Course training, teaching them about banks accounts, debit and credit, mortgages, savings accounts.
- Experienced podcast training with Colin Kelly of Comsteria.
- Heard from international award-winning photographer Paul Thorburn about the challenges and opportunities in creative industries.
- Enjoyed visits from charities including Mary's Meals, Street Connect, Teen Challenge Strathclyde, Aid for Education, Refuweegee and Man on Inverclyde.
- Met with professionals including: our local Sheriff, a GP, Physiotherapists, a Psychologist, a Solicitor, Pharmacist, Engineer, Marine Biologist, Police Officer.
- Enjoyed theatre trips to see Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, the Lion King, and An Inspector Calls.

**Global citizens with the skills and connections to succeed,  
and the ability to make a difference wherever they go.**



# The Cedars Difference

## Gateway: Senior 5 and 6

### **Confident, connected communicators**

All Senior 5 students are invited to join Gateway – our dynamic programme in which students encounter new experiences and opportunities that give them the tools to become confident communicators with established connections in the wider community and professional sphere. Feedback from former pupils indicates the significance of the connections and confidence gained during the Gateway programme.

#### **Students:**

- Are assigned a **personal success mentor** from the world of work who will offer advice, insight and accountability.
- Establish and develop their own **network** with a variety of professionals at termly dinners and in school events.
- Develop **critical skills** for higher or further education, employment or training including termly practice interviews with local professionals.
- Participate in culturally enriching opportunities to develop confidence as global citizens, such as theatre and music trips, city tours, university open days and museum visits.
- Are **given lifetime membership of Cedars School Society**, our network of Alumni and professionals who support one another and our school.

#### **Gateway Leadership Academy**

Senior 6 students are invited to join the **Leadership Academy** – a unique year of challenges that build on their Gateway experiences. Recent students have completed public speaking engagements within and outside of school, led initiatives within the school to raise money for charity, and pioneered mentoring of younger pupils.



# The Cedars Difference

## Gateway: Senior 5 and 6

**Confident, connected communicators**



**Student Testimonial:**  
The experiences in the **Gateway Leadership Academy** have helped me become so much more confident in public speaking, interviews and professional emails. I am so grateful to be part of the Cedars School Society and looking forward to coming back to School to share my university experiences with students in Gateway.





# The Cedars **Difference** Reading School

**We are an accredited  
'Reading School'  
with the Scottish Book Trust.**

We are a school of Readers – reading is a core part of educational and co – curricular programmes.

Pupils love the cosy and inviting **Reading Corner** in our library and each Junior class creates their own Reading Corners. Pupils from J1 – S6 are involved in our Reading Leaders council meetings, while staff, pupils and members of the school community share their latest 'Good Reads' on our Reading Wall in the school foyer.

**Monthly reading challenges** encourage students to broaden their reading horizons, and provide opportunities to respond creatively to a text, build their vocabulary, review books for their class, @cedarsreaders on Instagram, and win house points. A day out in Glasgow to choose new books for the school library is the much coveted prize for the pupils with the most house points.

We host **local authors** and **bookshop owners**, and celebrate World Book Day each year – see our exciting costumes on Instagram!



# The Cedars Difference

## Outdoor Education and Day Trips

Since our establishment in 1999, we have recognised the great value of outdoor education and visits to cultural sites. These experiences are a source of enjoyment, an opportunity to hone life skills, and to connect with and understand nature and the environment. They are a way of providing physical and mental challenges, and allow pupils to learn resilience and skills to overcome setbacks.

Recent trips across our Junior and Senior School include:

- Filming a documentary on Cumbrae
- Nature walks in Clydemuirshiel and the Trossachs
- Biology trip to the Millport Field Station
- Christmas Markets in Glasgow
- Walking History tour of Edinburgh
- Treezone at Loch Lomond
- Litter picking at Lunderston Bay
- Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery
- Boat trip on the Clyde to see the Sugar Boat
- Mount Stuart House on the Isle of Bute
- Helping the community through volunteering afternoons at Wellington Street allotments.







# The Cedars Difference

## Residential Trips



**Residential trips are a key feature of life at Cedars, we are often told by former pupils just how significant these trips have been.**

On residential trips, friendships are formed and pupils enjoy experiences not normally available in day-to-day life. They build their understanding of the world and their place in it, and will often revisit places they have seen with their families or with friends in post school life.

**Past trips include Compass Outdoor Activities Centre, Aviemore, Edinburgh, York, London, Florence, the Battlefields of World War 1 in Belgium and France, and working with a local charity in Rwanda.**

In April 2024, our Junior 6 and 7s enjoyed an exciting five-day trip to **Northumberland**. Visits included Durham cathedral, Beamish living museum, a forest adventure day, a farm experience (where they saw a lamb being born!), Hadrian's Wall, and much more.

**In June 2024, Senior 1 to Senior 6 are going to Paris for a week – we can't wait! We will visit famous landmarks, a beautiful chateau, Disneyland – and more.**

# The Cedars Difference

## Clubs

**Our pupils and staff run Clubs to share their interests with others.**

We find that each year, different clubs and activities are on offer, reflecting the interests of the pupil body.

Current co – curricular clubs include:

- Lighthouse Choir
- Debate Club
- Creative Writing Club
- Cedars Readers
- Chess Club
- Netball Club





# The Cedars Difference

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

**All Cedars pupils are supported to progress through their Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards in this world leading youth achievement award**

The D of E Scheme incorporates physical activities, skills development, volunteering, and expeditions, and fits alongside our rich co – curriculum.

We work with Inverclyde Council to encourage all Cedars pupils to make the most of the opportunity to undertake this Award and provide the support they need to achieve it.

Pupils can complete the Bronze and Silver Awards as school pupils, and many also start their Gold award in the 5th or 6th year, completing it after they leave school.





# The Cedars Difference

## Pupil's thoughts...

I really like moving round the different senior classes in J7 – it is challenging.

The teachers know us so going on residential is good fun!

Residential are amazing. Your first one you are really nervous – but after that, it's literally the best bit of the year!

I think I like Science the best – we do so many 'practical's

I love our Literature masterclasses

I'm really good at Maths!

School is friends!

Everyone is involved in groups and you don't get left out

I like that the classes are small and it means everyone is your friend

I've greatly appreciated the school's efforts to both build up a strong moral compass in me as well as pushing me academically to where I am today.

Playing football at interval is my favourite time of the day!

All the teachers are really nice and kind

The mentoring in Senior School is life changing. I am so much more confident in who I am since joining Cedars.

I'm so much more confident since coming here.



# The Cedars Difference

## Parent Testimonials

‘My children absolutely love attending this school, and it has truly become a second home for them.

The faculty and staff at Cedars are exceptional. Their dedication to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment for the children is evident in every interaction. The teachers are not only skilled educators but also caring individuals who go above and beyond to support the growth and development of each child.

Cedars provides great opportunities for academic, creative, and extra-curricular pursuits. The spacious classrooms, well-equipped science labs, and vibrant art studio contribute to a well-rounded educational experience.

The sense of community at Cedars is an excellent bonus. The school encourages collaboration, inclusivity, and teamwork, instilling important values in our children.

Overall, our family is immensely grateful for the positive impact that Cedars School has had on our children. They are thriving academically, socially, and emotionally, and we couldn't have asked for a better educational environment for them. We wholeheartedly recommend Cedars School to any parent seeking an exceptional educational experience for their children.’

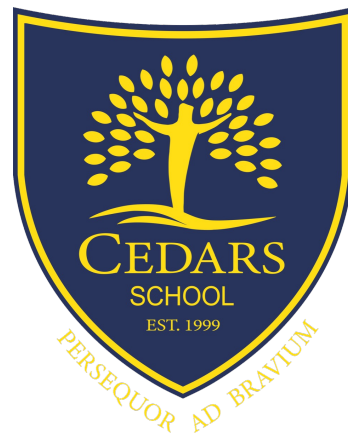
**Parent of Junior 7 and Senior 2 pupils**

---

‘Since beginning at Cedars our children have been expected to work hard and have risen to that challenge thanks to the nurturing and individualised approach from teaching staff. They thoroughly enjoy all aspects of their education and still manage to have lots of fun, they have built lovely friendships with well - behaved, mannerly children in a relaxed educational environment ... sending our children to Cedars everyday is worry free.’

**Parents of Junior 2, Senior 1 and Senior 2 pupils**

Academic Year  
2024 - 2025



# Where Every Child Belongs

## Admissions open for Junior 1 to Senior 6

---

### Visit us

We do not have an entrance exam. We are always delighted to welcome prospective parents, pupils, and families to the school. We organise taster days for pupils and provide all the support we can as you consider joining the Cedars' family.

### Application forms

Application forms are available from the school and places are offered after you have had opportunity to meet with a member of the Senior Management team. If the class you would like to join is full, we are happy to add your child's name to our waiting list.

### Contact us

**E:** [info@cedars.school](mailto:info@cedars.school)

**T:** 01475 723905

Come join us



