

In partnership with:



Kilbarchan Community Nursery scio



STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

June 2021

This report will inform you of the establishment's progress and achievements in the last session and let you know about our plans for 2021-2022. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

Mairi McLean
Nursery Manager

OUR NURSERY

Kilbarchan Community Nursery is based within the grounds of Kilbarchan Primary School and is registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). The nursery is in partnership with Renfrewshire Council to provide funded early learning and Childcare places during term-time for children from 3 years, as well as an out of school care service. The nursery is managed by a board of elected trustees from parents and carers of children using our service. The trustees employ a fully qualified staff team to deliver the service.

OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

The aims of Kilbarchan Community Nursery are to:

- Provide a flexible, high quality early learning and childcare service to meet the needs of children and their families
- Create a secure, stimulating, happy and healthy environment, which encourages individuals to reach their full potential
- Promote children's independence, social skills and learning for life through free play and directed activities
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which takes account of local and national guidelines and is responsive to children's needs, development and interests
- Develop positive partnerships with families and the surrounding community to support children's development and learning
- Recognise the value of families' input and encourage them to share in their children's learning
- Promote a welcoming and positive ethos of equality, fairness and inclusion, which respects and values all children and adults

SUCCESSSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

This session has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging we have ever experienced. The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic has been profound and presented us with unprecedented challenges. However, despite these challenges, progress was made pre and post lockdown, of which we are very proud.

- ★ Our building has been fully refurbished and extended for the increased Early Learning and Childcare provision.
- ★ We were able to offer all children up to 1140 hours by the end of the first term.
- ★ The service functioned successfully as two separate units in line with the restriction on numbers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ★ The staff team successfully supported families throughout the year using a range of communication methods.
- ★ We upgraded our I.T. resources, providing all staff with access to a laptop and an iPad.
- ★ All staff members developed their I.T. skills, successfully engaging in remote working, virtual meetings and electronic communication.
- ★ We achieved our 5th Green Flag award for our continued commitment to Eco-Schools projects.
- ★ We continued to develop our outdoor learning space with the support of parents and staff family members. We now have a large mud-kitchen and an additional playhouse. We purchased a new container for secure storage of outdoor resources.
- ★ The children took part in a sponsored walk, cycle or sledge event with their families during lockdown, raising funds to purchase new trikes and additional block-play resources.
- ★ Once again two children were successful in Renfrewshire's Inspired art exhibition.
- ★ We were extremely successful with grant applications, bringing in almost £20,000 to support us through the pandemic, develop improvement priorities and enhance our provision in general.
- ★ A dedicated team of trustees raised almost £4,000 through their innovative fundraising ideas.

HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN IN IMPROVING OUR NURSERY?

Leadership

- The senior nursery officers successfully led a small team of staff to deliver our service in two separate bubbles in line with COVID-19 guidance.
- Each section took forward an improvement priority, compiling a record of their progress and delivering this as a power point presentation to the staff team.
- Janice (senior nursery officer) successfully applied for our 5th Green Flag award.
- Dorothy (depute manager) continued to chair our panel area Locality, Inclusion Support Network (LISN) group meetings virtually.

Workforce Professionalism

- Individuals engaged in a range of virtual training opportunities throughout the year and Infection Control and First Aid update training was arranged in socially distant groups.
- Practitioners engaged in in-house training on developing the environment.
- Victoria and Chloe continued to work towards their B.A. in Childhood Practice.

Parental Engagement

- Opportunities for supporting parental engagement were set up, including a private Face Book page where parents or carers could share posts of their child taking part in activities and experiences during lockdown. Staff shared links for ideas and activity sites on the open Face Book page as well as specific suggestions for individuals via email. Julia read a bedtime story each day, which was shared for families to access at a suitable time.
- Parent or carer / keyworker meetings were arranged either via telephone or Zoom or TEAMS each term in place of face-to-face meetings or stay and play opportunities. This ensured care plans were kept up to date and parents and carers had the opportunity to discuss their child's progress and next steps with their keyworker.
- Children's profiles were sent home during holiday periods to allow parents and carers the opportunity to see their child's progress record and contribute if they wished.

Assessment of Children's Progress

- Most of our children have continued to progress well in their learning despite the periods of lockdown. This is due to the excellent support and engagement in home learning experiences of their parents and carers. As a result, many have benefited from the opportunities for one-to-one and targeted support.
- Children who attended for emergency childcare during lockdown also benefitted from the smaller group situation.

Establishment Improvement

The current restrictions have had an impact on the progress of some of our improvement priorities, however:

- We successfully implemented the Early Learning and Childcare Expansion with all pre-school children having access to 1140 hours from August and ante pre-school children from November.
- We were able to implement elements of Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationship Approach although the wider support arrangements for this programme were paused.
- Section A staff took forward the project to enhance the establishment's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) provision very successfully and shared their findings with all staff using a PowerPoint presentation.
- We enhanced our I.T. provision providing all staff with their own iPad and access to a laptop.
- A new website was developed, which is more accessible and informative.

Performance Information

Our priority over the past year has been to keep the children and staff safe during the current pandemic and support families as best we can under the restrictions.

- Feedback from most parents and carers in relation to this has been very good.
- Most children have continued to progress well in their learning.
- The staff team have continued to provide a high-quality early learning and childcare experience for children and their families throughout by adapting to new methods of communication, working in bubbles and despite the upheaval of a full-scale refurbishment.

KEY STRENGTHS

- ★ Keeping children safe during the pandemic while continuing to offer a quality early learning and childcare experience. *“You are doing everything to make sure the children are receiving the best help and education.”* Quote taken from parent / carer questionnaire. (May 2021)
- ★ Supporting families throughout the pandemic including during periods of lockdown. *“The support and advice given was beyond expectation.”* Quote taken from parent / carer questionnaire. (May 2021)
- ★ Supporting staff as a team and individually as required, throughout the year to ensure their wellbeing. *“Concerns are acted upon, and senior staff keep tabs on how we are feeling and how home life is.”* Quote taken from staff questionnaire. (May 2021)

OUR NEXT STEPS – PRIORITIES FOR 2021-22

The Covid 19 pandemic hindered our progress and our ability to achieve all of our improvement priorities. Some priorities and actions will therefore be carried forward to academic session 2021 – 22. We believe that we have made very good progress during session 2020-21 and we will use the improvement priorities listed below to build on this progress moving forward.

From 20/21

- ★ **Implementing Early Protective Messages Policy and Practice (EPM):** This is a health and wellbeing policy being rolled out by Renfrewshire Council to give children the skills and knowledge to allow them to communicate their views and feelings effectively.
- ★ **Consolidate the Implementation of Renfrewshire’s Nurturing Relationships Approach:** Raise awareness within the staff team and families of what a nurturing environment is and the importance of nurture in supporting children’s development.

New for 21/22

- ★ **Recovery from COVID-19 restrictions** and reinstating a quality early learning and childcare service as one unit from our newly extended and refurbished building.
- ★ **Engaging with the Care Inspectorate’s new self-evaluation document “A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged children’ (June 2021)** and using the document as a guide to monitor our provision as part of our self-evaluation process.
- ★ **Reviewing our planning procedures** to ensure that the needs of all children are being included and they are being effectively supported to reach their full potential across the curriculum.

Full details of Kilbarchan Community Nursery’s improvement priorities and actions are detailed on the establishment improvement plan. This is available on the website.

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HAVE YOUR SAY!

Please take the opportunity to share your thoughts with us as we use feedback to help us make improvements to the establishment. You can do this by speaking to staff, participating in parent/carers meetings, responding to questionnaires/surveys and by completing evaluations at events.