

# Markinch Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Betson Street  
Markinch  
Glenrothes  
KY7 6AA

Telephone: 01592 583446

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

12 June 2019

**Service provided by:**

Fife Council

**Service provider number:**

SP2004005267

**Service no:**

CS2003015962

## About the service

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Markinch Primary School Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children at any one time, age from three years to those not yet attending primary school. The service is situated in the town of Markinch, close to all local amenities. The building consists of a large playroom where all children take part in a wide range of quality play experiences. There is a parent's room, an office, changing area and toileting area for the children to access. There is a fully enclosed outdoor learning environment for the children to access throughout their nursery session and the school playground is also accessed by the nursery each day when the school children are not using it.

The aims of the service include:

'Markinch Primary School Nursery is a true community where staff, pupils and parents work together for the benefit of the children within our community. We have always been known as a school that cares passionately for our pupils; however, we also recognise that caring means challenging our pupils to be the best they can be, as often as they can be.'

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting It Right For Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

## What people told us

We spoke directly to 47 children and observed all children in all rooms during our visit. This gave us a good insight into their play both indoors and outdoors. The children presented as happy, confident and curious during our visit. A sample of the children's comments are shown below:

'We've made a puppet theatre; the show will be in 20 minutes.'

'My dad is a postie. I saw his van when I was on a double decker bus.'

'This is my folder' (the child opened his personal learning journey folder and showed us photographs).

'Look how high I go' (a child was on the climbing frame).

We spoke directly to four parents during our visit who were all positive about the nursery. Their comments included:

'Staff are very supportive and approachable. Lots of different play experiences for the children to take part in. They could do with a bigger garden.'

'All the staff know my child well not just the keyworker. My child is always happy to go to nursery and tells me what they have been doing at nursery when they come home. Really good nursery and they manage behaviours well.'

'Fantastic nursery, best nursery in the area. I looked at a lot of nurseries and none of them matched up to this nursery. Very clean and welcoming. The children know their boundaries, and this supports behaviours at home. Very supportive'

'I go to the woods with the children and set up a rope swing for them which supports risky play. I also read stories to the children. I love coming in to spend time with the children. I also support the children and the staff during fire building activities at the woods. The staff are all lovely. Staff really care for and nurture the children.'

We issued 13 Care Standards Questionnaires for the service to distribute. Eight completed care questionnaires were returned of which five had added additional comments. These demonstrated a high level of satisfaction with the service. All parents either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that 'overall, they were happy with the quality of care their child received in this service.' All comments were shared with the manager and we have included a sample below which represents the parent's views:

'Staff are excellent, always welcoming, friendly, caring and approachable. The nursery is always clean and hygienic with a good variety of activities.'

'My child loves going to nursery and gets upset on holidays when they cannot go.'

'The staff are wonderful. They take the time to chat to parents and are always interested in what is happening at home. Events in home life are talked about and celebrated. The strong relationships between staff and children are obvious.'

'My child has settled well at nursery and my husband and I are extremely satisfied with the care and attention provided by all staff. Overall the food provided as snack is healthy, but I would prefer if there was less cake and biscuits given.'

'I feel that all of the staff at Markinch Nursery go out of their way to make not only the children but the parents welcome. It has a wide range of activities for the children to choose from and my child has learned a lot in their year at nursery. I have experienced other nurseries with my other children and none of them have come close to the standard at Markinch.'

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan which demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service. For example, their SHANARRI (safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included) wellbeing indicators display board focused on how they were developing their main areas for improvement this term. These included; offering opportunities for numeracy and literacy throughout the nursery, continue to develop loose parts both indoors and outdoors, refresh learning walls and develop support for learners who need help with speech and communication. It was evident throughout our visit that each of these areas had been developed and further enhanced.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	6 - Excellent
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

## What the service does well

Nurturing, caring and compassionate interactions resulted in excellent outcomes for children. The ethos was warm and inclusive, supporting children to feel safe and secure. High quality communication and relationship building supported strong partnership working with parents which resulted in the team being extremely knowledgeable about children's needs and interests. A staff member said: 'we want to meet the needs of the whole child, not just the child who attends nursery.' Staff were highly responsive to and supported the needs of the families outwith the nursery as well as while attending nursery.

There were a wide range of excellent resources available for children to access within the nursery. These resources provided opportunities for the children to problem solve, be creative and develop life skills during experiences including baking, preparing snack and taking part in risky play in the well-equipped outdoor play area. The staff team should be commended for their responsive approach to the children including the use of high-level questioning and appropriate prompting to challenge the children and encourage independent problem solving.

A high level of support to families was provided through a range of groups and home-link opportunities. The PEEP group was responsive to parent's needs and their choice of topics. The group had recently focussed on early communication and internet safety which was supported by a parent who was a police officer. The Bookbug sessions were inclusive of siblings to support whole families to attend the groups and share stories together. Play@Home bags had been created to support links with learning at home. These had included story bags, numeracy bags and physical play bags. The impact of these opportunities was excellent resulting in enhanced partnerships with parents, improved learning links with home and positive outcomes for children.

The staff team should be commended for their excellent management of children's transitions. For instance, the nursery team had developed excellent links with the primary one teaching staff which included the consistent use of the same digital technology between the nursery and primary one. Positive links had also been developed with the local private nursery to support their children throughout transition into school. The health visitor was highly involved in the transition process of new children and families who would be attending nursery after the summer to ensure their needs were fully met. These new families were also supported to attend stay and play sessions, a Bookbug session and join a visit to the woods over the weeks that led up to the end of the summer term. Each of these approaches and strategies had resulted in children and families being well supported throughout the transition process which developed confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

Very effective processes were in place for safeguarding children and supporting children with additional support needs. The Solihull approach to attachment and nurturing was evident resulting in the team knowing the children extremely well and using effective and individualised strategies to fully support all children and their families.

Partnerships with other services which included speech and language therapists, health visitors and specialist nurses were highly effective to ensure that each child's needs were being fully met to a very high standard. Continual reflection by the staff and leadership team took place to evaluate how their work could have a greater impact on families to provide them with opportunities to further develop and enhance relationships and access support when needed.

High quality intergenerational relationships had been developed through regular visits to the residents of Balbirnie Court. The children would spend time singing to and talking to the residents during their visits. Reciprocal visits to the nursery from the residents took place allowing them to attend events taking place within the nursery. This resulted in bringing generations together to promote positive relationships and to support inclusion and provide the children with a sense of belonging.

### What the service could do better

The team should continue to meet and exceed the care and support needs of the children attending this service. The planned and continued improvements will assist the service in meeting and maintaining their vision and aspirations for children.

### Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

### Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

### Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

### What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

### Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

## What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

### Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

### Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
7 Jun 2016	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
12 Dec 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
14 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
1 Oct 2008	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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