

Sgoil Araich an Iochdair Day Care of Children

Iochdair School
Bualadubh
Isle of South Uist
HS8 5RQ

Telephone: 01870 604891

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

4 September 2019

Service provided by:

Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar

Service provider number:

SP2003002104

Service no:

CS2011280740

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

Sgoil Araich an Iochdair registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011 to provide a care service to :

Number(s) and Age(s) of person(s) to whom service may be provided: 1. To provide a care service to a maximum of 16 children from the age of 2 years to primary school age.

Any other conditions unique to the service: 2. Staffing ratios as stated in the National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 (Appendix 6) must be maintained at all times. A minimum of two adults must be present at all times.

3. Mrs Anne Graham will be the peripatetic manager and will also be registered manager of Sgoil Araich Bhaile a Mhanaich (CS2008184824)

The service had submitted a variation request for the service to be no longer managed by the peripatetic manager Anne Graham and will forthwith be managed by principal teacher Kay Marie MacInnes.

The nursery provides Gaelic Medium pre-school care and education in partnership with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. Children are funded for pre-school education by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Education Department from the age of three years. The service is registered for children from the age of two years. There were twelve children present during the inspection.

The nursery provided Gaelic immersion education from the age of two years from Sgoil Araich an Iochdair on South Uist in the Western Isles. The dedicated nursery area of Sgoil Araich an Iochdair consists of a playroom, toilet/changing facility and a safe and secure dedicated entrance separate from the school. Children were provided with quality daily opportunities for outdoor play.

The stated aims of the Sgoil Araich an Iochdair were: "to establish effective partnership with parents where we can join them in furthering their child's development and learning. To establish care routines which are flexible and responsive to children's emotional and physical needs, reflecting familiar routines at home. To create a stimulating and challenging environment providing appropriate opportunities for learning through play in each of the key aspects in children's development and learning to ensure that childcare and learning are effectively integrated to meet children's needs."

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people – and what they can do to improve. 'Getting it Right for Every Child' is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of 'Getting it Right for Every Child'. They are: Safe; Healthy; Achieving; Nurtured; Active; Respected; Responsible; and Included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for

children. The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

What people told us

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection which took place between 8.45am and 2.00pm on the 4 September 2019.

Feedback was provided to the principal teacher, nursery staff and an Early Years Officer from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Education Department.

We did not have the opportunity to speak with parents during the inspection as children are bussed from and to home and are collected by family from the bus. The service is providing extended nursery hours and is helpful to working parents.

We had sent seven Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) to the service for parents to complete. Four had been completed and returned to us. Those who completed and returned them were very happy with the service and some commented on the good quality of care provided and how their children were progressing.

Some parental comments were:

'My child loves Sgoil Araich - always happy and excited to go. As a parent it's the staff that make the experience! They are responsive, kind and encourage my child's learning and social confidence.'

'The care provided by Sgoil Araich an Iochdair is excellent - staff are very friendly and excellent with the children. We get lots of communication regarding what's happening, current topics etc. and there is lots of outdoor play. I highly recommend it!

We spoke with all the children and they were happy to tell us of what they liked to do and we observed they had developed friendships.

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 and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Staff warmly welcomed children on arrival in Sgoil Araich an Iochdair. Some children were bussed/taxied to nursery and were not accompanied by parents. We observed the principal teacher and sgoil araich staff knew the children and their families very well and had developed strong partnerships with them.

Their care plans told the story of the child's learning pathway both at home and in nursery and included input from the child and their parents. The care plans were well documented and we found that management and staff had worked hard to develop good information sharing within the plans. Children were provided with opportunity to be bi-lingual and staff encouraged and extended children in their Gaelic language. Staff were a good example and used mostly Gaelic language in the playroom.

Staff had developed good relationships with specialists and other agencies. The play leader shared with us that they were awaiting support from the newly appointed speech and language therapist.

Five children aged two years had been registered with the service at the previous intake and all except one were now three years. The service had a good staff ratio to meet the needs of the children. The play leader told us they had been studying the care of two year children "to make sure we're doing it really well and to be as good with the two year olds as with older children."

Staff dealt well with challenging behaviour and had developed good strategies to reward positive outcomes and we observed progress was being made.

A survey had been carried out when children entered primary one which confirmed that fine motor skills, numeracy and literacy skills were well embedded in the children who had transferred from nursery. It was reassuring for nursery staff and demonstrated children's learning done through the medium of play was successful.

The play leader told us children enjoy developing community partnerships and the nursery had, over time, developed a partnership with the local shop and post office due to visiting every week to buy snack and sundries. In relation to their visits to the shop, staff and children had transformed a space in the nursery into a shop. The transition in the playroom was very successful and to compliment their emergent literacy targets the shop logo was transferred on a range of the resources in the nursery shop. A till, a set of post office scales and lots of stationery for the post office had been donated by the shop and staff decorated the nursery shop in the same colours as the community shop for authenticity. Staff told us the shop role play had been a very special topic and the shop manager had come into the nursery to play 'shop' with the children. The shop topic naturally led into the next theme as children were interested people's occupations; it contributed to chats and role play regarding gender and equality.

The manager of Wild Things Outdoor Nursery on Uist advises staff on growing and planting. A number of raised beds demonstrated the range of things grown by the staff and children and we observed children picking and eating strawberries and peas. Potatoes, rhubarb, carrots and berries were growing well.

Staff have regular meetings and one of the items always on agenda is for discussing publications for early years and child care guidance or legislation relevant to the care and support of children. Staff shared with us they enjoyed working together, the modern apprentice had almost completed her apprenticeship and is a member of the employed staff.

What the service could do better

Staff told us the local authority education department is to include an E-sgoil facility in the school and the entrance to Sgoil Araich may be relocated. The peripatetic manager has consulted with the local authority on behalf of the nursery staff and parents to look at ways of improving the drop off/pick up arrangements.

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.

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
4 Oct 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership 6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent Not assessed Not assessed
5 Nov 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership 6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent 5 - Very good
30 Oct 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership 5 - Very good 3 - Adequate 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
19 Nov 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership 4 - Good 3 - Adequate 4 - Good 4 - Good
22 Feb 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership 4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed 4 - Good

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