

St. Cuthbert's Primary School Nursery Class Day Care of Children

Greenfield Road
Burnbank
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Telephone: 01698 282175

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
11 December 2020

Service provided by:
South Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003481

Service no:
CS2003015344

About the service

St. Cuthbert's Primary School Nursery Class registered with the Care Inspectorate on 01 April 2011.

We carried out an announced virtual inspection of the service between 07 and 10 December 2020. Feedback was provided on 11 December. During this inspection we used Near Me video technology to carry out observations and interview the manager and staff team.

This was a focussed inspection to evaluate how well children were being supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic.

Our methodology for this inspection included:

- Observations of children's daily routines and staff practice.
- Observations of infection prevention and control practice.
- Interviews with the manager and staff team.
- Telephone discussions with parents and carers.
- Reviewing key records, policies and written procedures relative to COVID-19.

This inspection was carried out by inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

The service is provided by South Lanarkshire Council and is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 72 children at any one time aged from 3 years old to those not yet attending primary school.

Care is provided from a large open-plan playroom within St. Cuthbert's Primary School, Burnbank. All children have daily access to outdoor play in a secure outdoor area. The service is located close to main roads and public transport links.

The vision for the service is 'A safe and happy place where all children thrive and learn.' A full copy of the vision, aims and objectives can be obtained from the service.

What people told us

We spoke briefly to five children during the inspection. Children confidently told us about their handwashing routine and how they were using 'magic bubbles' as well as some of the new songs they were learning for Christmas. Throughout the inspection we observed children to be happy and engaged in their play.

We spoke to five parents as part of this inspection. Parents were generally happy with the service being provided and felt that staff knew children well. Parents spoke of how they trusted the judgement of the staff team when making decisions on their child's care. One parent told us they had been unsure about the group their child had been placed in, which then turned out to be a very positive move for the child.

Some parents noted that they were unsure that children should be outside as often as they were, particularly in bad weather. We discussed with the manager how the service could communicate the benefits of maximising time spent outdoors to parents to provide reassurance. We have reported on this under quality indicator 5.1.

One parent raised a concern about the temperature of the indoor play areas, noting that these may be too cold when windows and doors are open. We reviewed the processes in place to monitor this. We found that the service was taking appropriate steps to ensure windows and doors were opened and closed at points throughout the day to support a positive air flow and maintain an appropriate temperature.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	4 - Good
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

4 - Good

Quality indicator 5.1: Children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19

Child friendly approaches had been adopted to help children understand the changes to the service as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included using animal characters to represent each group of children and adopting fun and engaging routines to support enhanced hygiene. As a result, a nurturing environment was provided for children while also ensuring the risk of infection was reduced.

Children have access to a range of play spaces within the premises, which they accessed on a rotational basis with other members of their learning pod. The resources used by children moved with them throughout the day ensuring that they could extend their play and learning when moving to different areas.

Outdoor play spaces were being used effectively and consideration had been given to maximising the time children spent outdoors to support their learning and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Some parents told us they were not sure children should be outside as often and we discussed with the manager how the benefits of using the outdoor space could be communicated to parents. A plan was being considered for a virtual stay and play session focused on the outdoor space.

Staff knew children well and were using up to date personal plans to support children, ensuring staff had the key information required to care for children effectively. Online learning journals had recently been reintroduced and staff and parents told us these were a good means of communication. We discussed with the manager how these could now be developed to be more detailed and it was recognised this would be a focus area in the coming months as staff and parents familiarised themselves with the system.

5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff.

Risk assessments were in place and the environment had been adapted to ensure 2 metre distancing was in place between each group of children. The system of maintaining groups of children no larger than eight helped reduce the number of close contacts each child had while attending the service. The risk assessments were being regularly reviewed as guidance changed, which ensured the environment provided for children was safe and secure.

We observed the setting to be bright and clean with suitable ventilation provided by opening doors and windows. Cleaning was being carried out to a good standard throughout the inspection and clear records were kept to ensure each area was being cleaned when groups of children changed. These measures contributed to the provision of a welcoming environment for children where the risk of transmission of COVID-19 was reduced.

Enhanced hygiene measures were being implemented including frequent handwashing for children and staff. Our observations of children's handwashing found that they had access to suitable sinks, liquid soap and paper towels. Staff were using fun and imaginative language to support children who told us they were using 'magic bubbles'. As a result, children were engaged in what they were doing and were happy with the procedures in place for additional handwashing.

Cleaning resources and personal protective equipment were available in each area of the playroom and within toilet and changing areas. We found some minor inconsistencies in the implementation of best practice guidance in that PPE was not always stored in a sealed box and one bin had no lid. We discussed this with the manager and the issues were rectified during the inspection.

5.3: Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19

We observed staff practice and interviewed some staff members as part of this inspection.

Staff reported feeling well supported and discussed how they had contributed to the recovery plan for the service when it reopened following a period of closure due to COVID-19. This meant that staff had the opportunity to shape how the service would be delivered and were confident in discussing any problems with the management team.

Staff were deployed effectively throughout the inspection. Each group of children was cared for by a designated key worker and support staff member, which provided continuity of care for children and reduced the number of close contacts each child had. Where staff shortages occurred the manager, had redeployed existing staff to cover for this, reducing the need to bring in external staff.

We observed how staff were implementing social distancing within the setting and found this to be in line with current guidance. This was supported by a one way system and clear markings in the communal areas, which ensured staff could move around the setting at a safe distance from others.

We recognised that a new staffing structure was in place with the recent introduction of an Early Years Deputy post and changes to how the Team Leader and Nursery Teacher were being deployed. We discussed with the manager the importance of reviewing this structure in the coming months to ensure the most effective care and learning experience was being provided for children. The manager agreed that this would be a key priority in the coming months.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	4 - Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	4 - Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	4 - Good
5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19	4 - Good

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