

## Gairloch (Gaelic) Nursery Day Care of Children

Gairloch Primary School  
Auchtercairn  
Gairloch  
IV21 2BP

Telephone: 01445 712 165

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
21 June 2021

**Service provided by:**  
Highland Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003001693

**Service no:**  
CS2003013586

## About the service

We wrote this report following an unannounced, focused inspection which evaluated 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.

The inspection was carried out using a blended approach of virtual and onsite scrutiny. We started the inspection on 14 June 2021 and gave feedback to the manager on 21 June 2021.

The nursery is operated by Highland Council. The nursery operates Monday to Friday, term time only. It is located within Gairloch Primary School and the head teacher manages the nursery. The nursery premises consists of a playroom with kitchen area, large reception area with cloakroom facilities and notice boards. There is an enclosed outdoor play area directly accessible from the playroom. The nursery could also access the school playground and playing fields for energetic physical play.

Gairloch (Gaelic) Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 22 children, from the age of three years to those not yet attending primary school.

## What people told us

During the inspection, we found the children to be very happy and relaxed in the care of the staff. They were outdoors making very good use of the loose parts and having lots of fun taking part in a range of physical activities, investigative play and learning.

At the time of the inspection there were no parents or carers present to give their feedback.

## 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

### 5.1 Children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during Covid-19

Children are nurtured and supported throughout their changed experience in their early learning and childcare setting.

**Effective communication with families enables responsive care to support children through changing circumstances.**

From the evidence gathered we evaluated this quality indicator as good.

Gairloch (Gaelic) Nursery is an extremely small service. At the time of the inspection there was only one child attending and one early years practitioner. It had been agreed with parents that for part of the week, the child should join up with the children attending the English medium class so that they could have a wider social, play and learning experience.

We found the child to be very happy, confident and settled within the nursery where they were part of a warm, caring and nurturing environment. We saw the child had a strong attachment with staff who were very responsive to their individual needs. The child was very happy and engaged in their play experiences and was able to make choices and lead their own learning. The children from the Gaelic and English medium nurseries spent most of the morning session playing outside together which had a positive impact on their health and wellbeing and minimised the risk of spreading infection.

The nursery was considered very much part of the school and staff were routinely included in full school discussions. Prior to the children returning to the setting, the staff from the two nurseries and the manager met to consider how the pandemic and resulting lockdown may have impacted on the children's emotional wellbeing. They then put in place appropriate strategies, including emotional check-ins, which they periodically reviewed to ensure that they continued to meet the needs of the individual children.

There were written personal plans in place for children attending the nursery. These had been updated following lockdown to ensure that they reflected children's current individual needs. Information in the personal plans highlighted whether children might need extra support and reassurance when returning to the setting. As a very small service, children were given the space to freely talk about how they were feeling.

While the children were unable to attend the setting, the staff were very proactive in maintaining contact, both formally and informally, with the children and their families. As a nursery serving a small community, the manager and staff were able to put in place a good system to share information and offer activities for the children and their families to complete. During contact, staff also explained to parents any changes which would have to be put in place in response to government guidance.

The service had robust processes in place to protect children from harm. Staff were fully aware of and confident in their roles and responsibilities to protect children. Prior to the children returning to the setting, the manager and staff had revisited their child protection policy and procedure and had reflected on how the pandemic may have impacted on the children and their families.

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

**Children are protected as staff take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection.**

From the evidence gathered we evaluated this quality indicator as good.

The service was proactive in relation to putting in place all the appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of the children and to prevent the spread of infection whilst still encouraging the children's natural curiosity and imaginative play. There were clear risk assessments in place which were routinely reviewed to ensure they reflected government Covid-19 guidance.

Staff had access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning materials such as aprons, gloves and sprays as required. Staff wore face masks when indoors. We discussed with the manager and staff that government guidance stated that unless social distancing between adults was not possible, it was not necessary for adults to wear face masks within the nursery. As there was only one member of staff in the playroom there was not a requirement for a face mask to be worn.

Being outdoors and supporting the children to take part in investigative play and learning has always been a priority for the service. Spending time outdoors significantly reduced the spread of infection and promoted positive health and wellbeing experiences for the children. The service made very good use of their fully enclosed outdoor play area and were continuing to make very good use of loose parts to offer the children a rich learning experience full of challenge, fun and exploration.

There were clear cleaning schedules in place. The toilets were regularly checked and cleaned throughout the day. Any additional cleaning did not impact on children's experiences during the session as this was completed by the school cleaner. At the end of each day after the children had left, enhanced cleaning took place.

The service had good resources and systems in place to encourage and support good hand hygiene. Staff regularly cleaned their hands throughout the session in line with Covid-19 guidance. As well as using the warm running water and soap at the kitchen area and toilets to thoroughly wash their hands, the staff had access to hand sanitizer.

Children were very confident in washing their hands. The staff had spoken to them in a child friendly way about the need for regular handwashing. We reminded the manager and staff that children under 5 years of age should not be using hand sanitizer and discussed options for handwashing outdoors for the children.

The service had put in place a system for the safe drop off and collection of children. Parents had to wear face masks, maintain social distancing and wait at the outdoor collection point while staff accompanied their children out. This arrangement allowed for staff to safely provide parents with some feedback each day.

Staff understood the service's policy and procedure should a child or a member of staff display Covid-19 symptoms while at the setting. They had completed online training prior to returning to the nursery and recognised the importance of promoting good infection prevention and control practice within the setting. Information and reminders in relation to the Test and Protect programme were regularly shared with parents.

### 5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during Covid-19

#### Staffing arrangements meet the needs of children and families

##### Staff are well supported and confident.

From the evidence gathered we evaluated this quality indicator as good.

The staff and the manager were committed and motivated to provide children with the opportunity to have the freedom to play, investigate and learn in a safe environment. As a very small service, children were provided with a good standard of individualised care. The staff were very friendly, outgoing and offered a relaxed and secure environment for the children.

As the nursery was part of the school, enhanced cleaning required to minimise the risk of infection was completed by the school cleaner and did not directly impact on children's play experiences. Staff told us that they had completed additional training on infection prevention and control to ensure that they met current guidance. We saw that staff had implemented and embedded this training during the inspection. This created a safe and clean environment for both children and staff.

Where appropriate, staff wore Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to reduce the risk of infection spreading. Staff were clear on expectations and procedures to follow if they or a family member became unwell and displayed symptoms for Covid-19. This reduced opportunities for cross contamination within the setting.

The manager ensured that staff were aware of government Covid-19 guidance and how it impacted on their service. He also advised them of any updates which may require them to make changes either to their practice or the premises. As a result, staff were aware of why changes were made and were confident in implementing the required public health measures which helped reduce the risk of transmission.

The manager recognised the potential impact of Covid-19 on the emotional well being of staff. As well as formal meetings, there were frequent informal opportunities to check in with staff and to offer them the time and space to discuss any concerns or anxieties they might have. Having staff who felt supported and valued had a positive impact on the quality of care and support the children received.

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

### Requirements

#### Requirement 1

In order to ensure children are safe and receive high quality experiences the provider must ensure that at all times they adhere to their conditions of registration in relation to staffing ratios.

This is in order to comply with:

The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011, SSI 2011/210 Regulation 4(15)(a) - Welfare of users

Timescale : immediate

**This requirement was made on 3 December 2020.**

**Action taken on previous requirement**

**Not assessed at this inspection**

#### Requirement 2

The manager should develop and implement an effective system of quality assurance to monitor and improve all areas of practice and improve outcomes for children.

In order to achieve this the provider should:

- a) develop and implement a rigorous quality assurance programme
- b) implement regular effective support and supervision for all staff
- c) involve staff in the systematic evaluation of their work and the work of the service
- d) put clear plans in place for maintaining and improving the service
- e) ensure the manager effectively monitors the work of each member of staff and the service as a whole.

This is in order to comply with:

The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulation, 2011 SSI 2011/210 - Regulation 3 Principles and Regulation 15 (a) and (b) Staffing.

Timescale : 1 April 2020.

**This requirement was made on 3 December 2020.**

Action taken on previous requirement

Not assessed at this inspection

## 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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