

Collydean Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Collydean Primary School
Magnus Drive
Collydean
Glenrothes
KY7 6TR

Telephone: 01592 583 421

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
29 January 2026

Service provided by:
Fife Council

Service provider number:
SP2004005267

Service no:
CS2003017085

About the service

Collydean Primary School Nursery is a day care of children service registered to provide care to a maximum of 75 children aged from three years to an age to attend primary school.

The service is located in the town of Glenrothes, within the grounds of Collydean Primary School. The nursery building consists of two playrooms and toilet facilities. Children have access to a secure outdoor area within the playground. They have opportunities to visit green spaces such as woodland within the local community.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 28 January 2026 between 08:40 and 16:30 and 29 January 2026 between 08:40 and 16:20. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection. In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with children using the service
- spoke with four families
- received questionnaire feedback from 10 families
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents
- spoke with visiting professionals.

As part of our inspections, we assess core assurances. Core assurances are checks we make to ensure children are safe, the physical environment is well maintained and that a service is operating legally. At the time of this inspection, no improvements were identified relating to core assurances.

As part of this inspection we undertook a focus area. We have gathered specific information to help us understand more about how services support children's safety, wellbeing and engagement in their play and learning. This included reviewing the following aspects:

- staff deployment
- safety of the physical environment, indoors and outdoors
- the quality of personal plans and how well children's needs are being met
- children's engagement with the experiences provided in their setting.

This information will be anonymised and analysed to help inform our future work with services.

Key messages

- A highly committed staff and leadership team had created a shared vision and a culture of continuous improvement.
- Effective quality assurance processes supported improvements and brought about positive changes for children and families.
- Most children were engaged in play, showing interest and enjoyment in the experiences on offer.
- Children mostly experienced warm, nurturing interactions which supported their overall wellbeing.
- Children experienced relaxed and unhurried mealtimes where they could eat at a time and pace that was right for them.

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

Leadership	5 - Very Good
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	4 - Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

Leadership 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the setting's work and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Leadership and management of staff and resources

A highly committed staff and leadership team had created a shared vision. They had high aspirations for children and were passionate about working collaboratively to improve outcomes. A positive ethos based on strong relationships, connection and nurture had been established and informed everyday life in the setting. The leadership team recognised the setting's current values could better reflect the ethos which had been created. They had plans in place to involve children, families and staff to review the values together.

A culture of continuous improvement had been created where staff felt valued, confident to share ideas and initiate change. The pace of change had been well managed which meant that improvements made had been sustained. As a result, children experienced improved outcomes. A positive culture for reflection had been created which enabled staff to identify strengths and areas for development. They recognised the successes of their improvement journey and had a clear direction for further development.

Effective quality assurance processes supported improvements and brought about positive changes for children and families. For example, staff had reflected on the lunch time experience and made significant changes to create a more relaxed, unhurried and sociable experience for children. Observing children's experiences and staff practice had helped the leadership team to identify clear improvement priorities and next steps for development. They recognised there was now scope to further develop their approach to monitoring to evaluate the progress of ongoing improvement.

Children play and learn 4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

Playing, learning and developing

Children were settled and having fun as they explored the environment. Their creativity, curiosity and problem solving skills were supported through some high quality staff interactions. Staff were responsive to children's interests and helped to extend some of their ideas through meaningful interactions. As a result, children were encouraged to be curious and build on their interests.

Most children were engaged in play across the indoor and outdoor areas, showing interest and enjoyment in the experiences on offer. Improvements had been made to some indoor play spaces which created a more inviting environment that supported children's engagement. While these developments were positive, at times, a small number of children were not engaged in play. They did not always get adult interaction at the right time to extend their learning and enable them to be actively involved in play experiences. Staff recognised that continued reflection and further improvements of play spaces across the setting would help to develop consistency and enable all children to benefit from high quality provision.

Children had fun and exciting opportunities to explore the local woods which offered a rich experience to connect with nature. They experienced a sense of freedom to explore, and developed skills such as climbing and balancing. We encouraged the service to consider ways to enable children to visit the woods more often to extend their interests and connections. Families were very positive about the outdoor play experiences. Staff recognised and valued the benefits of outdoor play on children's overall wellbeing. They had identified scope to develop the garden to provide more opportunities for varied and challenging outdoor play experiences.

A new planning format had been recently introduced which had supported staff to develop their understanding of responsive and intentional planning. This was in the early stages of being used to extend children's engagement, learning and progression. Children confidently shared their learning journals and enjoyed talking about their previous play experiences. Some observations were descriptive and did not focus on learning and the development of skills. This meant that children's progress and achievements were not always clear to support their next steps in learning. The leadership team had identified this through their quality assurance processes and had plans in place to support improvement.

Children are supported to achieve 4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

Nurturing care and support

Children mostly experienced warm, nurturing interactions which supported their overall wellbeing. Children and families were warmly welcomed into the setting and had built positive relationships with staff. Most families were positive about the care their children experienced. Their comments included, "The staff at the nursery are very friendly and welcoming", "It's a friendly, cheerful and nurturing environment" and "Very caring staff who always have the child's best interests at heart". A small number of families told us they did not always know the staff caring for their children due to staffing changes or absences. We shared this with the leadership team to consider ways to improve this.

Children confidently shared their personal plans which reflected their current interests and needs. Staff knew children well, including their interests, preferences and strategies of support which meant that they mostly experienced interactions that reflected their individual needs and supported their engagement. Increasing the consistency of how strategies are implemented would further support all children's needs.

Transitions were tailored to children's individual needs. For example, key staff supported children to settle in, offering comfort and reassurance which helped them to feel safe and secure. Staff were mindful of the impact of transitions throughout the day and had made positive changes to enable children to have more choice in their play and learning. For example, changes to the lunchtime arrangements meant children were able to choose when to eat and experienced uninterrupted play.

Children had opportunities to be involved in planning and preparing snack and self-serving at mealtimes. This helped them to build independence and skills for life. They experienced relaxed and unhurried mealtimes where they could eat at a time and pace that was right for them. Staff valued the mealtime as an opportunity to connect with children. Most staff spent time sitting and chatting with children whilst they ate which created a sociable experience. There was scope for this to be more consistent across the setting.

Medication was appropriately stored and permission and administration records were in place to meet children's health care needs safely. Long term medication had not been reviewed with families to ensure it was still required. Staff were responsive to feedback and addressed this during the inspection.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Detailed evaluations

Leadership	5 - Very Good
Leadership and management of staff and resources	5 - Very Good
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Playing, learning and developing	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	4 - Good
Nurturing care and support	4 - Good

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