

# Our Lady & St Joseph's Primary Nursery Class Day Care of Children

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**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
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**Service provided by:**  
North Lanarkshire Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003000237

**Service no:**  
CS2003015371

## About the service

Our Lady & St Joseph's Primary Nursery Class is registered to provide care for 40 children aged from three years to those not yet attending primary school.

The service is located in a semi-rural area of Glenboig in North Lanarkshire. The nursery is housed in the joint campus building of Glenboig Primary and Our Lady & St Joseph's Primary. Children have access to one large bright playroom and direct access to a secure outdoor play area. They can also make use of the school gym hall.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 19 and 20 March 2025 between 09:30 and 15:00. Two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection, we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

This inspection was part of a pilot to test the 'Quality improvement framework for early learning and childcare sectors' developed jointly with Education Scotland. Because this inspection was part of a pilot, no new evaluations (grades) have been awarded.

During the inspection we:

- spoke with 14 children using the service
- received nine completed questionnaires/survey responses from parents
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children experienced warm, consistent and responsive care from staff, which helped them feel loved, safe and secure.
- Staff were knowledgeable about best practice and used this to influence changes. As a result, children were well supported, settled and enjoying their nursery experience.
- Children were developing their curiosity, imagination and problem solving through play experiences.
- Children were cared for in a warm, nurturing environment where they were supported to develop their independence, skills and abilities.
- Children's health and wellbeing was enhanced through daily access to outdoor play.
- Staff should continue to review daily transitions to help ensure they support children's needs and play preference.

## Children thrive and develop in quality spaces

### Quality indicator: Children experience high quality spaces

Children benefitted from a welcoming environment that was warm, well-furnished and comfortable. The entrance area displayed photographs and information for parents, and children had access to their own space to store their personal items. This helped promote a sense of belonging.

Staff had thoughtfully designed the indoor and outdoor areas, maximising space to best support children. This enabled children to play on their own or in small groups with others. Children's development was supported through play, nature and hands on experience. This included a natural outdoor space, large block play area, woodwork area and creative workshop. This helped support children to be confident and try things on their own, which also encouraged problem solving, thinking and sharing their ideas. Children told us "I love the block play", "I made a house with two levels. I forgot to make stairs but I can draw a ladder" and "I like the woodwork bench."

Spaces were interesting and well resourced, promoting curiosity and a sense of wonder. For example, role play areas contained many real life resources such as food, crockery and pots and pans. These opportunities supported children in developing their imagination, social skills and creativity. We discussed where this could be further enhanced to promote literacy and numeracy skills.

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted through daily opportunities to play outdoors. They were confident moving freely and independently between the indoor and outdoor spaces. One parent told us "children have access to outdoors at all times and children learn things like putting on their wellies and puddle suits." Children told us "we can go in the garden whenever we want. The garden is fun" and "I like playing outside, look at me I can balance on one leg." Staff understood the importance of outdoor play and were passionate about providing a variety of different experiences outdoors. Children were highly engaged in loose part play outdoors (resources that can be moved, taken apart and put together) providing opportunities for creativity, physical development and problem solving. We observed children making slides and mini assault courses, which supported risky play opportunities.

A range of robust safety measures were in place, including a locked garden gate, secure entry with a buzzer system and key fob system. Staff communicated well with each other, with regular head counts which helped ensure children's safety and supervision. Daily safety checklists and risk assessments were used by staff to proactively identify potential hazards. Children were encouraged to participate in risk assessing and were keen to share with inspectors how they kept themselves safe at the woodwork area. Children told us, "we have to wear googles to keep us safe" and "we have to be very careful. We have to hold the nail and gently hammer it in." This minimised risk and helped to ensure the overall safety for children.

Children's wellbeing was supported through effective infection prevention control measures. Cleaning schedules were in place that helped staff to monitor cleaning procedures of the environment and resources. Children and staff washed their hands at appropriate times of the day, for example before eating or after wiping their nose. This helped reduce the risk of infection. We identified where infection prevention and control measures could be improved by removing items that should not be stored in bathrooms and ensuring all items were stored appropriately. The service actioned this immediately.

The service enriched children's experiences by actively making good use of the local community with regular walks, visits to the shops, and park outings that nurtured a sense of belonging. Additionally, regular visits to the forest offered a wealth of benefits such as, connecting with nature, developing understanding of environmental responsibility, and instilling a sense of wonder and respect for nature. One parent told us "staff take children outdoors a lot, especially to the forest area behind the nursery to learn skills which is amazing."

## Children are supported to achieve

### Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support

Children experienced warm, caring and nurturing approaches from staff who knew them well. This helped children feel safe and secure. Staff were down at children's level engaging in play and conversations, they listened and followed children's play ideas. This helped children feel valued and respected. Children told us "the ladies like to ask us what we want to do" and "I love nursery, I feel safe and happy here." Parents told us "the staff are absolutely fantastic. They are a great team and work overboard to make sure the children get the best experiences, both having fun and learning alongside. My child loves nursery and constantly talks about the [staff], what [they] done that day, and how much [they] can't wait to go back the following day."

Children's transitions had been thoughtfully considered to support them when they settled into the service. Staff took time to get to know children and families well. This helped children build secure attachments to staff. As a result, children were settled and engaged in play. However, we discussed where routines and daily transitions could be developed further to support children's wellbeing and play opportunities. This included reviewing the pace of the day to enable children to direct and lead their play and make meaningful choices at key times. For example, providing children further choices at the beginning and end of sessions, as we found current approaches were adult led. This included gathering children in small groups to read stories in the cloakroom area.

Most children benefitted from a relaxed, unhurried and sociable mealtime experience. They were involved in setting the table and could choose where they wanted to sit, respecting children's choices. Staff positioned themselves at tables to supervise and support children if required. They interacted with children throughout the lunchtime experience, supporting their language and communication skills.

However, opportunities to promote children's independence was limited. The service had identified where changes could be made to promote children's independence. This included opportunities to self serve and developing a rolling lunch approach, which could support child led play. We agreed this would be beneficial in promoting children's choice, whilst also helping to support positive mealtime experiences.

Medication was stored appropriately and was easily accessible. This helped staff to quickly identify which medication they required. Staff reviewed medication with families. However, we discussed where this could be further enhanced to ensure reviews were completed more frequently. When reviewing medication we identified some areas for improvement. This included ensuring all medication was within date. We asked the service to develop effective systems to ensure processes were in place to support the safe administration of medication. **(See Area for Improvement 1).**

Children's overall wellbeing was being supported through personal plans, where important information was gathered to support their needs. These were created in partnership with parents which helped to promote consistent care for children. Staff knew children's needs well and used responsive and skilful interaction to support their development. We discussed where personal plans could be further developed to ensure they are tailored to each child's individual strengths, preferences and interest. This would include reviewing 'all about me' information with parents and children and ensuring targets were relevant and meaningful to children's interest and stage of development.

Parents and carers were involved in nursery life. Planned events such as stay and play sessions, workshops and 'nursery natters, school matters' chats had been well received by families and contributed to strengthened relationships that supported meeting children's needs. Parents told us "it is honestly a fantastic nursery, the staff do a lot for the kids and there lots of events on. Cooking with families etc" and "there's lots of opportunities to be involved throughout the year." However, some parents told us they would like more communication from staff or with their child's keyworker about their child's day, as they were unable to enter the playrooms. We discussed developing approaches to help ensure parents could have meaningful conversation with their child's keyworker on a daily basis within the nursery.

### **Quality Indicator: Safeguarding and child protection**

Children were kept safe while they attended the service. All staff were aware of their responsibilities to ensure children were safe and protected from harm. This was supported by annual child protection training.

Child protection processes were visible for everyone, including visitors to the service, this included a picture of the named child protection co-ordinators. This helped to ensure if anyone had any concerns they could act appropriately and take their concerns to the right personnel. Policies and procedures were in place and regularly reviewed by all staff. This helped to ensure staff were able to follow correct processes and provide appropriate support to children and their families when needed.

Staff demonstrated positive relationships with children and families. They valued parental feedback and respected children's rights where they actively sought the views of children. One parent told us "they let my child have a voice to choose books. [Their] interests are met through variety of opportunities." The service's vision and aims promoted an ethos where children experienced care in a safe and secure environment, helping them play, learn and grow. Parents told us "staff are lovely, very helpful. It's clean & I know my children are well looked after they love the nursery & staff" and "if there is ever any issues they let you know right away and have great communication. They really put the child first."

## Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children's health needs are met, the provider should improve medication processes to ensure medication can be administered safely. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring expiry dates are checked when receiving medication from home, and further developing audit processes.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective." (HSCS 1.24)

## 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).

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