

As part of inspection activity, HM Inspectors identified highly-effective practice in the approaches Cornton Nursery took to developing a shared vision for change and improvement which reflected its context within the community.

Read a blog from Cornton Nursery sharing how they ensured the whole nursery community has ownership of their vision, values and aims.

Data from The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2016, confirmed to us the true extent of the many economic, health and social inequalities faced by some of our families every day. Over 20% of our families speak English as an additional language representing 15 different cultures from around the world. Staged Intervention supports 46% of our families.

Visuals play an important role in how we plan and work together. Our shared vision and moral purpose was identified as the bridge and opportunity to identify the equity gap within our nursery and local community in order to secure progress for all. It was important to us to ensure all cultures were respected and celebrated with breadth, depth and relevance being delivered through our curriculum. Children and families are included and consulted with using the visual of the Wallace monument as they 'Reach for the Stars' in our curriculum rationale. The visual of Stirling Castle celebrates 'Similarities & Differences' within our diverse cultures.

We invest a lot of time in really getting to know the needs and aspirations of our children and families within our diverse community. This enables us to develop a strong shared vision which drives training and nursery improvements, in order to secure children's progress.

Our Community Constitution is signed by families at home visits and by children at the start of each year. This states that by offering a nurturing environment and promoting accountable behaviours all children and adults will participate in play, learning and communication, engaging:

Respectfully, Safely, Fairly, Fully & Joyfully.

Using these values as our foundation, our curriculum was re-designed and is now delivered alongside 45 community partners. Learning for Sustainability is now at the heart of all Cornton Nursery's improvements and weaves together our *Curriculum, Campus, Community and Culture*. We believe that Learning for Sustainability as an integrated approach, allows our children the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for future learning, life and work. It is values led and relevant to the lives of all of our children and families in Cornton.

Through spontaneous and planned purposeful play opportunities, children are encouraged to identify and manage risk, and investigate and explore their continually changing world; both indoors and out.

Robust self-evaluation processes and data collection has ensured we have become more confident and responsive in offering timely interventions to individual children and families. This is bridging the equity gap. Most children are now making incremental improvement in literacy and health and wellbeing and are more engaged during targeted and spontaneous play and learning opportunities. Families report improved outcomes at home. Monthly Community Action Days, community garden growing and planting and family learning opportunities have all ensured children and families are developing a sense of community pride, resilience and skills for future learning and life.

Staff are confident in taking forward distributed leadership roles. Although the pace of change in early years at present is rapid, most staff say that they are happier within their roles as they have clear remit and a shared morale purpose.