

22 August 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

**Tollbrae Nursery Class
North Lanarkshire Council**

In June 2016, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's nursery. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the headteacher and North Lanarkshire Council. Recently, as you may know, I visited the nursery again. During my visit, I talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and practitioners. I heard from the headteacher and other practitioners about the steps the nursery has taken to improve. I looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, I was able to find out about the progress the nursery has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what I found. The Care Inspectorate inspected the nursery at the same time and that report will be available at www.careinspectorate.com.

Improve all aspects of provision in the nursery.

I noted improvements in the nursery class through the medium of both English and Gaelic. The headteacher is giving clear direction to leading change. There are now better approaches in place to monitor the work of the nursery, which have potential to lead to further improvements. The headteacher has worked well with practitioners in using the national guidance, *Building the Ambition*. As a result, children's experiences are better. Practitioners have started to engage with the national advice on Gaelic Education. They recognise that this identifies important ways for which they are yet to strengthen their nursery class for Gaelic Medium Education. The headteacher needs to review the roles and responsibilities of practitioners so that all are clear of how, as individuals and a team, they take forward continuous improvement. Practitioners value the support and advice they receive from colleagues who share effective practice. They told me of how this has resulted in them leading improvements.

In both the medium of Gaelic and English, children are now busier and clearly enjoy their experiences. They have more time and space to develop their ideas. Children were observed to play independently and with friends. They get on well together and share mutual respect for each other and the adults with whom they work. Children are better expressing themselves through play. The school captures this well using social media. There is still scope for learning to be more challenging. For this, practitioners need to continue to interact with children in ways that progress their

learning and development. While the headteacher has looked at the way Gaelic-speaking practitioners are deployed, the nursery is still not providing enough of children's learning through Gaelic.

The headteacher has started to track children's progress in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing through both mediums of learning. For this, she is using national materials such as the wellbeing indicators. She has also devised development pathways for literacy and Gàidhlig. Children continue to have 'learning stories' to show evidence of their progress in learning. Practitioners should continue using this information on progress to be effectively planning what individual children will learn next. Observations in the English medium playroom showed that children are progressing well in literacy and English and numeracy. Children in the Gaelic Medium playroom are understanding well the Gaelic language that is used with them during some activities, for example, welcome time. During such times, they understand continuous conversation and also speak some Gaelic words and phrases. As children play independently, and when prompted, they will use some Gaelic words. The use of Gaelic by practitioners for only a few of children's experiences is restricting children's progress. Practitioners need to use more Gaelic with children during the times that they themselves are leading their own play. In both nursery classes, children need more opportunities for accessing texts and listening to stories. Overall, children need to be developing their literacy and numeracy skills in all contexts of play.

Continue to improve the curriculum to ensure children enjoy a broad and relevant experience and to ensure progress in all areas.

Practitioners have gained confidence in using the experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence. Going forward, they should continue to plan for progression across all curriculum areas. Children continue to be engaged by their play outdoors in which they are developing curiosity and inquiry. Parents and partners contribute to children's learning through sharing their skills and talents. Practitioners should now build their knowledge of the Gaelic partners and groups who can assist them with developing aspects of the curriculum through Gaelic. Children's learning at the primary stages has a focus on Scotland as an important feature of the curriculum. As part of the 'Oor Toon' project, children researched the use of Gaelic in Airdrie. Commendably, this is building all children's understanding of Gaelic within the school. Transitions for English medium are developing well. Practitioners should retain a focus on their links with the Gaelic Medium playgroup so that parents are aware of the opportunities for Gaelic Medium Education across stages.

What happens next?

The nursery has made some positive progress since the original inspection in improving both provisions through the medium of Gaelic and English. We will discuss with North Lanarkshire Council their plans to increase further the learning made available through the medium of Gaelic. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the nursery within one year of publication of this letter. When we return to inspect the nursery, we will write to you as parents informing you of the progress the nursery has made.

Joan C Esson
HM Inspector

If you would like to receive this letter in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

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