



# CARGILFIELD NURSERY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024 - 2025



## Our priority areas are:

### How good is the quality of care and learning we offer?

Our Nursery provides ample space and high-quality resourcing for free choice, play based learning for large periods of the school day. We have a dedicated highly experienced staff who provide and further leaning opportunities during these times. We have recently assessed and renovated our outdoor and indoor learning environments to ensure they are productive, creative spaces that drive children's choices and imaginations.

We have increased and continue to develop the time the children have to engage in independent free play. We want to ensure they have plenty of uninterrupted quality play time in which they can fully engage in a range of activities and resources. This will give them more dedicated time toward self-investigation, imaginative play, creativity, risk assessment and risk taking as well as skill development. We have made a large drive towards increasing our outside learning time and particularly in wild spaces. In the last academic year we created free choice trips to a number of local natural spaces on a weekly basis. This included Cramond Beach, Cammo and Lauriston castle. The children also had the opportunity to choose which natural spaces within the school they were using and we have further plans to expand this.

We are dedicated to ensuring the children have a greater role in the decision-making processes of what they do and where they play. We strive to encourage independence and the right of the child to choose. They need be an integral part of their own education and development and this is our priority.

We are committed to increasing the amount of time the children spend in outdoor learning environments and that they have the choice as to which environments they choose to engage in.

### Next Steps

- Ensure the children are being given greater opportunities and time for engagement in natural outdoor learning spaces. (new target)
- Continue to improve our outdoor learning spaces and resources. (continued target)
- Monitor and continue to improve protected play and the spaces and resources available during these times. (continued target)
- Review the timings and frequency of responsive trips. (continued target)
- Review Transition to P1 process. (new target)

### How good are we at ensuring the best possible outcomes for all our children?

Assessment for learning is an integral part of a successful learning environment and a review and development of the way we assess is always ongoing. Last academic year we amended the systems in use to ensure an increasingly streamlined efficient system was put into place that recognises and engages best practise as well as putting the children's experiences at the heart of the process. This system has helped us to empower our practitioners to use their knowledge and judgement more regularly and put in place a consistent, efficient tracking systems, with a focus on Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Maths. We want to ensure we are allowing each child to reach their full potential.

Last year we introduced the Phonic and Maths extension programs with very positive responses from both the children and their parents. It was giving the children the tools for reading, writing and Numeracy at the correct time in their development. This in turn allowed them to access resources and further their independent skill building at their own pace.

We plan to further expanded our programs for Phonic inclusion and Maths extension based upon the children's readiness and educational choices as well as the aspirations of their parents. These programs are ensuring that each child is being approached and stretched as an individual.

### Next Steps

- To review and embed the new and improved assessment and tracking system. (continued target)
- Offer increased opportunities and entry points into Phonic development and skill building groups. (continued target)

### How good is our leadership and approach to improvement?

Our work over the last 3 years on Vision Values and Aims has created a strong ethos for Nursery going forward. Our parents were able to highlight their priorities saying they wanted an environment that is able to create; independent, kind, confident, happy, enthusiastic, curious children. Our focus is now on our review process and creating feedback for improvement. Last year we sent out a focus question per term for feedback and while this created good feedback at the start responses reduced over time. As a result, we are reviewing our feedback processes further **from both Staff, parents and the children and how feedback is distributed, gathered and actioned.**

With new management in place from the start of the Summer Term 2023 the on going focus has been on reviewing current practise, set up, assessment, parent events, communication, child progress and outcomes as well as staff wellbeing and development. Verbal feedback and discussions have taken place continually over the last year both on a 1-1 basis during review meetings but also as a group during inset, planning and pastoral meetings. This has allowed us to gather opinions and ideas and review many of these areas, gathering views on current practise and areas for change. Now we are in the refining and final implementation phases of these plans.

We continue to strive to empower and increase the knowledge and understanding of all the practitioners through both in house and external professional development. We now want to embed this new system and ensure that it is seamless and works well in practise.

### Next Steps

- Review parental feedback. (continued target)
- Assessing our reflection processes to include regular play surveys and area reflections. (new target)
- Review parent education opportunities. (new target)
- To re work the Curricular Leaders program that shares good practise and encourages practitioners to develop areas of pedagogical interest. (continued target)