

The High School of Glasgow Kindergarten Day Care of Children

Junior School
27 Ledcameroch Road
Bearsden
Glasgow
G61 4AE

Telephone: 0141 942 0158

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

19 December 2019

Service provided by:

The High School of Glasgow

Service provider number:

SP2003003573

Service no:

CS2003017154

About the service

The High School of Glasgow Kindergarten is situated within the Junior School in Bearsden. The provider is The High School of Glasgow. The service operates from a purpose built extension which includes five interconnecting playrooms, foyer, cloakroom facilities and a kitchen. There is also outdoor play space adjacent to the nursery.

The service is registered to provide care for 44 children aged 3 years to primary school age between 08:00-15:15 hours, Monday to Friday, during term time. Since August 2019 the provider extended service hours in preparation for expansion of early learning and childcare in August 2020. The service is in partnership with East Dunbartonshire Council.

The service aims include:

"To provide a welcoming and homely ethos where you and your child will quickly feel comfortable".

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC); Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people.

GIRFEC supports children and their parents to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

We issued 10 care standards questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents prior to the inspection taking place. We received nine completed questionnaires. We spoke with three parents and six children during the inspection visit. Responses from parents were very positive.

Written comments included:

"The school provides a fantastic service that my son loves, feels very secure within and has the confidence to be outgoing. We are extremely happy with the service".

"My child has come on leaps and bounds since moving from her previous nursery to kindergarten. She absolutely loves it. The staff are wonderful and it is such a brilliant environment for children".

"An exceptionally warm and nurturing environment for learning. There is a clear focus on allowing individuals to thrive in their own way and cultivating each child's interests. A wonderful start in education".

"There have been no issues at all with the change to this new educational environment for my child and in fact has, from day 1, developed his confidence. He has never not wanted to go to his new 'school'".

"Excellent environment, as a family we could not be happier with our choice of school for our child".

"The High School of Glasgow Kindergarten is a fabulous facility. My daughter has a broad range of activities she can get involved in with plenty of engaged, energetic and nurturing staff on hand to support and encourage. It is a bright and engaging environment with the children at its core. The addition of the hot lunch offering and the

secret garden are two excellent additions to an already wonderful service. I couldn't rate the High School Kindergarten highly enough".

During the inspection we also spoke with three parents. They told us,

"I'm very happy with the service. Communication is very good. I feel involved and consulted. The most positive thing is that my child's confidence has grown. I like the small group setting. I use the 'see saw' app to engage and see what's happening".

"All staff are great. Very nurturing. My child has a great experience here. She feels very secure. Its a lovely, calm environment".

"My child loves the nursery. Staff are brilliant. They are so nice and easy to talk to. It's very welcoming. Other parents shared the 'see saw' app with me. I love that my child is outside every day in the secret garden and that she has choices of what she wants to do".

This parent showed me a video of her child playing in the secret garden. The service had shared the video with her earlier that morning via the 'see saw' app.

Children were confident and chatty. They told us about the biscuits they were baking, making their own playdough and learning about space.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

What the service does well

The quality of care and support for children in the service was excellent.

Responsive care and relationships, attachment and nurture were strengths of the kindergarten team. Children were respected and valued and it was clear that staff knew the care and support needs of individual children very well. Care was consistent, developmentally appropriate and emotionally effective.

Children transitioned very well, carefully supported by staff, in partnership with parents. They were very settled and had built attachments with all staff. This contributed to children feeling safe, secure and included.

Children enjoyed very positive outcomes. There was a focus on wellbeing and provision of outdoor, active play and learning. We saw children enjoying the 'secret garden'. They were enthusiastic, engaged and excited.

Children experimented with and investigated the flow of water at the water station, using natural, transient materials. They climbed on trees and learned how to problem solve and manage risk. They splashed in muddy puddles and examined the water patterns. Children also had free access to an additional outdoor area from the playroom. The playrooms had recently been refurbished and were very well presented. The new environment encouraged children to fully engage and lead their learning, using resources that promoted curiosity, creativity and inquiry.

From sampling children's personal care plans and learning journals we could see that the service had streamlined their recording systems to demonstrate how they were supporting children's care, learning and development. We found there were very good arrangements in place for children who presented with additional support needs or where there was concern for a child's welfare. Learning journals were stored in an attractive, inviting corner of the playroom to encourage children to use, reflect on and take their journals home.

Staff were knowledgeable about the kindergarten's child protection procedures. They spoke confidently about their roles and responsibilities and confirmed that their employer offered an annual programme of child protection training. Children had their own kindergarten charter, linked to best practice guidance such as Scotland's Play Charter. This incorporated the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach to supporting children, young people and their families.

The kindergarten promoted children's healthy lifestyles through providing children with free access to active play outdoors and offering healthy options of meals, drinks and snacks. We observed children's snack and lunch time experience to be calm, caring and positive. Children enjoyed a hot lunch, supported by staff who had a very good insight into the role of food in learning and social development.

The quality of management and leadership was very good.

The kindergarten had a new manager who had a clear vision and direction for the service. She led the staff team very well and had positively impacted on the quality and delivery of service. She had high expectations for children's achievements and ensuring high standards of provision and care. She was pro active in building leadership capacity with staff. Staff felt very well supported by the manager. They told us they felt their opinions and ideas were valued, giving them confidence to take on leadership roles that were of interest to them. Leadership roles were underpinned not only by training but also agreed objectives and targets so that everyone could see the impact on the professional development of staff and on outcomes for children. There was an obvious sense of team spirit and staff morale was very positive. Staff were passionate, excited and enthusiastic to be part of a 'Can Do' culture and approach.

Staff told us:

"I feel very lucky to be part of the kindergarten team. We work so well together, each bringing different strengths to the team and taking forward different initiatives. We are led very well by our manager who shares her vision with us and inspires us to take many positive changes which we have done over the past 2 years",

"I am absolutely thrilled to be working for this amazing service. Our manager is a breath of fresh air and together as a team we are highly motivated and have transformed the kindergarten environments".

"It is a wonderful environment to work in, the support from my manager is noteworthy and the team are super to work with".

The manager and staff were a reflective, evaluative group who used the service improvement plan to inform their improvement journey. Very good monitoring and quality assurance processes, involving staff, parents and

children, were used to evaluate service provision. There were lots of opportunities for staff to come together to discuss policy and practice. This resulted in a cohesive staff team who worked very well together to support children and their families and provide positive, quality learning experiences for children.

What the service could do better

The manager and staff should continue to drive forward the priorities identified in the service improvement plan.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

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

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings								
9 Nov 2016	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	6 - Excellent	Environment	6 - Excellent	Staffing	Not assessed	Management and leadership	Not assessed
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