



Welcome to
Calside Early Learning and Childcare Setting



December 2024

Welcome

The staff and children of Calside Nursery extend a warm welcome to all parents, friends and visitors to our school. We want our nursery to be a happy, caring and stimulating environment for everyone, and welcome your assistance and co-operation in achieving this.

Parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences in a child's life, playing a vital role through all stages of education. Parents who take on a supportive role in their child's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour. The active involvement of parents can help promote a learning community in which young people can engage positively with adults and peers, and develop their talents and abilities to the full.

We look forward to meeting and working with you to ensure that your child's nursery education is both happy and rewarding.

Mrs Louisa Gamble

Headteacher

For more links and detailed information about how we support parents and work with our schools please see our **Authority Handbook**. This includes information for families about financial and wellbeing support, additional support for learning, transport clothing and parental involvement and engagement in your children's learning.

Vision, Values and Aims

In all that they do we want our young people to be the best that they can be.

Nursery Vision:

At Calside Nursery our vision is to provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment for children to explore and maximise their full potential whilst ensuring that every child's wellbeing is at the very core of our practice.

Nursery Values: created with our Parents

Respect	Empathy
Equality	Acceptance
Compassion	Honesty
Kindness	Politeness
Considering Others	

Our Core Aims: created with our children

Share	Help Everyone
Kind Words	Listen to Others
Tell the Truth	Be Good and Nice
Take Turns	Learn Stuff
We need to Listen	Kind Hands

Our Ethos:

In nursery the focus is on active play and all the activities that we offer support play and learning. With careful planning we offer a variety of opportunities for the children to enhance their skills. We provide challenge, depth and progression to their learning experiences while ensuring that all their needs are met. We build upon the valuable learning experiences children will have had at home, playgroup or other ELC settings; with families and with friends. Every child is special. We value them

as individuals, and we aim to ensure that there are equal opportunities for every child to partake fully in enhancing their knowledge.

Working together with Parents, Carers and Families

Nursery values the role of parents in their children's learning. Where staff and parents work together to support children's learning, this can have a significant effect.

Information at a Glance

School Address

Calside Road, Calside, Dumfries. DG1 4HB

Email address:

gw08officecalside@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Parent Council Chairperson Mrs Jena Davies

Head Teacher Mrs Louisa Gamble

Registered Capacity 40

Start and finish times

8.30am to 3.30pm

Keeping in touch

We will communicate with you in a number of ways: by telephone, e-mail and face to face. Nursery will send out regular newsletters that will keep you up to date about what is happening within the setting. Communication is the key to any good working relationship. Our door is always open, so please do not hesitate to speak with us if something is concerning you.

Parental Involvement information:

www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools

www.parentclub.scot/

Parentzone Scotland:

education.gov.scot/parentzone

School term dates can be found at:

www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15239/School-term-and-holiday-dates

Care Inspectorate full contact details

www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/contact-us

General enquiries 0345 600 9527

Staff



Miss Louise Tinman
Nursery Manager



Miss Michell Henderson
ELC practitioner



Miss Carol Potts
ELC practitioner



Miss Joanne Tweedie
ELC practitioner



Miss Aleigha Martin
ELC practitioner



Mrs Nida Kulbiene Mundell
Early Years Support Assistant



Miss Natalie Mundell
Early Years Support Assistant

Registration with the Care Inspectorate

Early Learning and Childcare (nursery) settings are registered with Care Inspectorate, the regulatory body for Early Learning and Childcare Services. We are inspected regularly to ensure that we are meeting the appropriate standards and to support us to improve. This helps us to continue to deliver high quality services to you and your child. Our certificate of registration and our most recent inspection report is displayed on our noticeboard.

All Providers must meet [**The National Standard**](#) for Early Learning and Childcare. All staff are registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and hold a Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) membership.

ELC Registration Procedure

All three and four year olds and eligible two year old children can receive up to 1140 hours a year of Early Learning and Childcare. That works out at 30 hours per week during school term time.

Nursery registration takes place in January or February each year.

Parents of children due to start nursery will receive a letter and registration form in the term prior to registration. You will be asked to complete the form and return this to your preferred provider with a copy of your child's birth certificate and proof of address. Children moving into their second year of ELC will be provided with an ELC2 registration form from staff to complete and return. If you wish to change your provider you should collect a form from the nursery and take this to your new provider.

As part of Funded ELC offer your child will be also be entitled to one free meal and a snack each day. If you are using more than one provider on any day, you must let the providers know where your child is taking their one free meal/snack and milk.

The Council Webpage provides further information for families:

[**www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15236/Funded-early-learning-and-childcare-for-3-and-4-year-olds**](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15236/Funded-early-learning-and-childcare-for-3-and-4-year-olds)

Key Worker/Person

Before your child starts nursery, they will be allocated a key worker. This is the person who will be the key contact for you. You and your child will get an opportunity to meet and chat with their keyworker during your initial visit. They will hold a meeting with you to create a Personal Plan for your child either before your child starts nursery or in the first few weeks to ensure that the nursery will be able to meet your child's needs. If you have any concerns or worries regarding your child, please speak to their keyworker. Your key worker is responsible for sharing any information about your child with you throughout their time in nursery. During the session your child will be supported by all members of staff.

Links with other agencies

Early learning and childcare settings work closely with other agencies including Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Health Visitors, Educational Visitors and Educational Psychologists, when appropriate. If you have any concerns or queries, we can help you to make contact with these agencies. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff and we will be happy to help.

Getting It Right for Every Child and Child Protection

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is an approach from Scottish Government that sets out how Early Learning and Childcare settings, schools and other services should work with children and their families. GIRFEC is all about ensuring that children get the help they need when they need it – the right help at the right time.

All children have the right to be protected from harm, abuse and neglect. We believe all children should be safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and responsible and included.. Further information can be found at: [**www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16640/Support-for-children-and-families**](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16640/Support-for-children-and-families)

Further information can be found on your ELC Noticeboard

ELC Child Protection Coordinator is
Mrs Louisa Gamble

Depute Child Protection
Miss Louise Tinman

Induction and Transition - Settling In

To support your child's transition from home to nursery we will invite you and your child for a pre-visit. This allows you both to look around the setting and meet the staff team. You will be able to share with us your child's interests, likes, dislikes and how you feel your child will cope with their transition to nursery. Every child is an individual and each child will settle into nursery at their own time. We will work with parents to ensure that we devise a settling in programme that works for your child.

Learning, developing and growing

Our Early Years Curriculum and the way in which it is presented is determined by the advice set out in A Curriculum for Excellence Document, Realising the Ambition, the Health and Social Care Standards and our local regional guidelines.

In nursery the focus is on active play and all the activities that we offer support play and learning. The nursery team plan for the environment and resources, which ensures that we cover the areas of the curriculum:

- Literacy and English
- Numeracy and Mathematics
- Health and Wellbeing
- Social Studies
- Sciences
- Religious and Moral Education
- Technologies
- Expressive Arts

With careful planning we offer a variety of opportunities for the children to enhance their skills. We provide challenge, depth and progression to their learning experiences while ensuring that all their needs are met. We build upon the valuable learning experiences children will have had at home, playgroup or other ELC settings; with families and with friends. Every child is special. We value them as individuals, and we aim to ensure that there are equal opportunities for every child to partake fully in enhancing their knowledge. The different ways that we plan for the children's learning are below.

Active Learning Play Environment

Construction
Role Play
Listening Centre
Puzzles and Games
Creative Area

Sand and Water
Music
Outdoor Play
Physical Play
Fine Manipulative



Books

Mark Making
Snack and Self Help

Discovery

I.C.T.

Big Books

Building on the children's own interests and ideas is key to children being engaged in their learning. We use Big Books which evidence the process of their ideas and learning as it develops and extends.

We take a holistic approach to meeting the needs of our children and support their learning by meaningful interactions with staff, who use questioning and careful planning to develop further children's curiosity.

The Big Book captures the journey of the learning, through the use of photographs, comments from the children using their own language and this is linked to the curriculum benchmarks for early level.

Lunch and Snack Time

Snack is available throughout the nursery session. Your child can decide when they want to have snack, once ready they will wash their hands and collect their cup, plate and cutlery. Snack time is a very

sociable time where children chat to their peers and ELC Staff. We follow the nutritional guidance **Setting the Table** and the **Eatwell Guide** when devising snack menus.

If your child has any dietary requirements, please let us know. There is a choice of milk or water to drink.

Lunch

With the introduction of 1140 hours, children attending all day have the entitlement to have lunch provided. This is a time where children will have the opportunity to develop and learn new skills. They will be able to choose their lunch, self-serve as well as having the opportunity to further develop their social skills between their friends and staff.

Detailed information on school meals is available at www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmenus

Special Dietary Requirements

Catering provide special dietary requirements for food allergy and intolerances; medically prescribed diets; or diets for religious or cultural reasons specific meals for children of different ethnic origin. Simply ask for a registration form to allow us to inform the catering team who will discuss your child's requirements in full.

It would be beneficial for all children who have an allergen, food intolerance or special diet to register. For more information contact the Solutions Centre on 01387 271 112 or solutionscentre@dumgal.gov.uk to access the Legislation & Nutrition Officer.

All Children with allergens should register with the catering team as soon as they are aware that their child has an allergen or intolerance to food.



Absence/ Illness

If your child is not feeling well please do not send them until they are well feeling better. Please phone if your child will not be attending Nursery for whatever reason.

Accidents

If your child is involved in a serious accident or becomes unwell we will inform you immediately. Therefore, it is essential that your contact details are up to date.

Medical help will be sought if necessary.

We will always inform you about minor incidents and accidents and provide you with a written copy of the incident and what action we have taken.

Administration of Medicines

Parents /carers are responsible for their child's medication.

If possible, it is helpful for you to ask the prescribing doctor if the medication can be prescribed to allow for administration out with of ELC hours or if you can come in to dispense this to your child.

Medication will only be administered by a member of ELC staff once a completed parent/ carer administration of medicines request form has been received.

For medication such as asthma inhalers it is the responsibility of the parent/carer and the ELC staff to check that the medication is not out-of-date, that there is a sufficient quantity, that it is removed as necessary and that any unused supplies are uplifted for disposal.

All information regarding medication will expire at the end of each year, however all medical information will be reviewed on a termly basis. If the administration of medication is to continue, all relevant information must be supplied on a new request form at the start of the next session. Pupil and Parent/Carer confidentiality will be respected in all matters.

Intimate Care

From time-to-time toileting 'accidents' happen. We will discuss how we will support your child's stage of development and intimate care needs at your child's Personal Plan meeting so that we are taking similar approaches in ELC and at home to help your child.



Infection Control

Good hygiene is crucial in controlling the spread of infection and children are encouraged to use disposable tissues to wipe their noses, wash hands before snack/lunch and after going to the toilet, etc.

We are obliged to inform Care Inspectorate and Public Health when there is an outbreak of infectious diseases.

The exclusion times for childhood infections are on display. Should a difference of opinion between the parent and the Nursery Manager/Head Teacher arise about the child's fitness to attend, advice will be sought from the School Nurse. Generally, parents will be advised by their G.P. when a child should remain at home.

Further information can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications



Parent/ Carer and Family Engagement

Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

You are the expert on your child and what you say matters. Getting it right for every child means that the nursery will always seek to involve you, to listen to your opinions and take them seriously. This starts right at the beginning when we get together with parents/carers to fill in your child's individualised care plan. Through discussion we can build a holistic picture of your child and how best we can support them. The information you share with us is very useful to help us settle your child into the setting, keep them safe and help us to care for them to the best of our ability. Care Plans are a working document and will be updated when needed and reviewed every 6 months. Care Plans are kept in a locked cabinet in nursery.

How is my child doing?

There will be several opportunities for you to discuss your child's progress throughout their time with us. This may be through informal discussions with your child's keyworker or the manager; drop in sessions, stay and play; settling in and transition reports; or

for some it may be through more formal, focussed meetings with other agencies. If you have any concerns or would like to chat about your child, we are here and happy to help.

PLPs - Personal Learning Plans

These are individual learning records which reflect the learning, development and progressions of each child with photographic observations and next steps. These plans will be sent home at different intervals for you to share in your child's learning and work with us to plan for their next steps.

Parental Involvement

We offer a warm welcome to all parents and carers and are keen for you to become involved in Nursery life. We would love for parents to join us in nursery. Your knowledge and skills would be an asset to the setting: this could be by reading stories, gardening projects, woodwork, art, music or any other ideas you may have.

C.A.P.E.R. (Children and Parents Enjoy Reading)

Children will be given the opportunity to choose a book to take home for the week. By sharing a book together you can help your child to associate reading with a pleasurable experience. Establishing a love of reading and talking to your child about books is key to their future development in reading.



Partner Involvement

We work with a range of partners to ensure that we are providing a family service to the children in our care. This ranges from NHS; Social Work; Speech & Language; Local businesses and the Lifelong Learning Team.

Family Learning

The Lifelong Learning Service offers support to improve life chances for children and families through the delivery of a wide range of family learning programmes. Family Learning offers families the opportunity to learn together during relaxed and 'fun' learning sessions.

For more information please visit Lifelong Learning. This link provides more detail of courses www.dumgal.gov.uk/lifelonglearning and programmes on offer.

ELC Policies and Procedures

A copy of our policies and procedure documents are available in nursery for parents to view at a time that is convenient to them.

Complaints/ Concerns

The first step is to speak to the ELC Manager if a situation arises that you are unhappy with. It is hoped that most concerns can be resolved this way. If however this is not the case, there are a number of ways you can direct your enquiries or requests to the relevant service or you can make a complaint online by visiting Make a complaint online (dumgal.gov.uk) Or by calling : 030 33 33 3000

Complaints can also be raised with the Care Inspectorate, Compass House, 11 Riverside Drive, Dundee, DD1 4NY. Telephone: 0345 600 9527

Emergency Contact and Collection Forms

You have completed an 'Emergency Contact and Collection' form. If there are any changes to who is allowed to drop off and pick up your child, then you must let us know so this can be updated. Your child must be dropped off and collected by an appropriate adult (Under 16yr olds are not allowed to collect children).

Emergency Closure

In the event of the nursery/school having to close in an emergency e.g. adverse weather conditions, heating failure we will contact you as soon as possible in the event that the Nursery needs to close.

For more information on Emergency Closure processes please see - [Link to Authority Handbook](#)

Transition to Primary 1

As your child approaches school age we will work with your child's school to ensure that transition to Primary One is as smooth as possible. Your child's records will be passed on to school. You have the right to request to see any information held about your child.

Deferred entry to Primary 1

Most children start school when they are between 4 years 6 months and 5 years old but it is possible to start children later depending on the circumstances. This is called deferred entry.

You can choose for your child to start primary school later if they turn five from the school start date in August and before the last day of February.

If you are considering deferring entry to school talk to nursery staff or the head teacher at the school about your concerns.

You'll also need to remember to [apply for a school place](#) even if you are still trying to decide whether your child should start school later or not. Any delays in applying can mean you lose a priority place at your child's catchment school.

Children turning five years old between the start of the school year in August and the end of February have an automatic right to defer entry to school and receive another year of funded Early Learning and Childcare. You can read more about deferred entry here: www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15237/Deferred-entry-to-Primary-1



Outdoor learning plays a large part in the early years curriculum. Please ensure that your child always has the appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather. Children love a puddle and some mud and they can become anxious if they feel concerned about getting good clothes messy.

Children also require soft shoes for indoors: slip on or Velcro is preferable to laces. These can be kept in nursery in their shoe docket, as can their wellies.

We encourage the children to be as independent as possible in going to the toilet etc. Therefore, it is best to avoid such items that children find difficult to open, such as dungarees, belts which can cause problems.

Please put an extra set of clothing in your child's bag and label all your children's clothing and footwear - children can become very distressed if they cannot find their belongings.

We hope that you have found the information contained in our handbook useful. All information contained in our ELC handbook is correct and accurate at the time of printing; we reserve the right to make any changes throughout the ELC session.