

Quarry Brae Primary Nursery Class



Handbook 2023-2024

Section 1: Our Aims

Quarry Brae Primary Nursery Class, our vision is "Growing together to be all we can be."

Our values lie at the heart of all we do and are Love, Honesty, Respect, Kindness.

To achieve our vision, we have the following aims:

Trust: a safe, trusting learning environment where families, children, staff and other professionals work together to meet the needs of all our children.

Opportunities: providing opportunities for children to grow and learn about themselves and the world we live in.

Aspirations: Aiming high and empowering our staff and children to reach their full potential.

Nurture: creating an ethos in which all staff, families and the wider community are nurtured, respected, valued and empowered.

Creativity: celebrating children's individuality by building on their interests, personalities, talents and abilities.

Equality and Equity: ensuring all our children are supported to grow and be all they can be.

Right to play: providing quality learning experiences, both indoors and out, developing children's interests and needs.

Responsibility: fostering children's rights and responsibilities for themselves, each other and our environment.

Section 2: General Information

Nursery: Quarry Brae Primary Nursery Class

Address: 61 Crail Street,

Parkhead, G31 5AL

Email:

Telephone No: 0141

School telephone no: 0141 554 1781

Website:

Nursery hours/Sessions:

Our nursery is open between the hours of 8.30am and 4pm and we operate term time of the year. We are able to accommodate 40 children, aged 3 to 5 years per session, with a ratio of 1 adult to 8 children. From August 2023, we can offer 1140 hours of funding per year and this can be used weekly as follows:

- 5 morning sessions 8.30am - 12.15pm
- 5 afternoon sessions 12.15pm - 4.30pm

Every family's circumstances are different and if you require to discuss the provision on offer please do so.



All children are eligible for lunch provision from August 2023. For those children attending additional days for childcare purposes, lunches can be purchased and will be calculated with your fees from Glasgow City Council.

Transitions are important in our lives and we aim to build relationships with you and your child so they feel safe and secure at points of transition. Routine can help to build stability therefore we ask that you aim to arrive on time for your child's session and collect them on time at the end of their session.

Holidays: We are open throughout the school session with the exception of Bank Holidays, In-service Days and school term time holidays.

Nursery Class Staff:

Head Teacher: Sara Adam

Early Years Principal Teacher: Louise Bremner

Team Leader: Clare Bannatyne

Early Years Staff: Fiona Fleming

Yvonne McTurk

Nicola Murphy

Josephine Whyte

Ikra Ziarag

Claire Foster

Support for Learning Worker:

Clerical Staff:

Admissions Procedures:

All Early Years places are allocated in-line with Glasgow City Council's admissions policy.

Registering for an Early Years Centre:

Parents should apply for a nursery place **each year** in January by completing an online application form.

Parents applying for place must upload the following items to the website:

- The Child's birth certificate
- Proof of residency (council tax bill)
- Recent utility bill (within past 3 months)
- Child benefit detail/bank statement, family tax credit award notice (TCAN)

Alternatively, parents can access their local Hub to register with paper copies of the above. Your application form cannot be accepted without staff seeing the birth certificate and proof of residency.

A register of all applicants will be held centrally by the Early Years Office and the information contained in the applications will be considered by the admissions panel to assist, where necessary, in the allocation of places. **Please note that the length of time a child's name has been on the register will not affect the child's priority for admission.**

Parents can ask to see their application form at any time. If circumstances change which affect the application, you should speak to the Head Teacher who will pass on your information to the Early Years Office.

When you are allocated a place at our Nursery Class, you will be informed by letter. You will then be contacted by the Team Leader with an enrolment/start date.

Arrival and Collection of Children:

It is expected that a responsible adult will bring your child to and from the nursery. You are required to sign your child in at the start of the session and sign to say who will collect your child at the end of the session. In the interest of your child's safety, you should make a point of telling the staff if your child is to be collected by someone unknown to them. This avoids difficult situations when a child cannot be allowed to leave with an adult who is a stranger to the staff. Children are given the opportunity to 'sign in' on arrival in the playroom as part of our literacy programme.

Attendance:

Although there is no statutory attendance procedure in pre-five establishments, you are asked to ensure that your child attends nursery class regularly. If your child is absent, please telephone on the first day of absence and let us know the reason for their absence. We follow Glasgow Council policy and it is the responsibility of every parent to contact the nursery class and inform the staff why your child is not in attendance. If this does not happen, the office staff will phone the home and emergency contact. If this fails, the Head Teacher may have to involve the Attendance Officer. These measures are put in place under the Child Protection Policy.

Suitable Clothing:

Children have the best fun when they are doing messy work. We always encourage children to wear protective aprons in nursery but accidents can happen, so please dress your child in suitable play clothes. A nursery uniform of a polo shirt and sweatshirt is available to purchase.

Children play outside in all weathers, on a daily basis. Please ensure that your child has suitable outdoor clothing for outdoor play and excursions. Our nursery have a selection of waterproof jackets, waterproof dungarees and wellies to borrow.

We suggest parents provide a pair of wellies and soft indoor shoes which they can wear while in the nursery. Sandshoes or well-fitting slippers are acceptable.

Please ensure that all clothing and footwear are clearly **labelled** with your child's name as a number of children can own the same or similar items of clothing.

Insurance:

Sometimes children like to bring something special or new to nursery for their friends to see, however parents should ensure that valuable items are not left at nursery, particularly as the authority has no insurance to cover the loss of such personal items. Claims submitted are likely to be met only where the authority can be shown to have been negligent.

While we support children bringing transitional objects from home to help them feel safe and secure we must make you aware that we cannot be held responsible if any items go missing. We will endeavour to look after all belongings from home to the best of our ability.

Excursions and Consent Forms:

There are two types of outing:

Off-campus: where no form of transport is used and one permission form covers the complete session

Extra-Activity: where some form of transport is used and an individual permission form will be required.

When outings or excursions for children are planned, the Head Teacher or a member of staff will advise you in advance. This is done through letters, newsletters, group call text / emails and notices displayed in the nursery. You will be asked to complete consent forms, which give your permission for your child's participation if appropriate. Please note that children cannot take part in outings unless completed consent forms have been submitted by their parent/guardian.

Snack and the Promotion of Healthy Eating

Your child will be provided with a daily healthy snack. It is our aim to promote healthy eating to encourage children to try a wide variety of food. We also try to make our baking products as healthy as possible.



However, when there is a celebration i.e. Christmas party, graduation etc. there may be a change from the normal snack. **If your child has any allergies or requires a special diet, this will be discussed during your child's care plan meeting.**

Treat Fund

You are invited to contribute £2.50 per week (50p per session) to our Treat Fund. This is a voluntary contribution which will be collected on a weekly, monthly or termly basis.

This fund is used to buy snacks, baking items, groceries, treats for the children such as Christmas gifts, Graduation gifts, nursery outings, parties and pantomime shows. Some new resources, such as books and jigsaws, are also purchased and will be intimated in the nursery newsletter. Please hand in your contributions to the nursery office or transfer to the treat fund account - details will be shared termly.

Fundraising

With the exception of our annual budget allocated to us by Glasgow City Council, our main source of fundraising is our nursery fund and support from the PTA. At certain points throughout the year, we may organise fundraising activities.

Transport

Transport is not normally provided for children attending Early Years and Childcare establishments. The Council may, however, provide transport to and from nursery for children with special needs who may need to travel some distance to take up their placement. Generally, parents are expected to make their own travel arrangements.

No Smoking Policy

Smoking is not permitted in the nursery or in the surrounding environments. Smoking is only permitted outside of the school grounds.

Emergency Closure Arrangements

The nursery will be open on the times already outlined, but on some occasions circumstances may arise which mean the nursery has to close.

Establishments may be affected by, for example, severe weather, transport problems, power failures or difficulties with fuel supplies. In such cases, we will do all we can to let you know about the details of closure or re-opening. We have procedures in place for this eventuality. We will keep in touch by Group Call email, telephone, twitter as well as notices in the press and on local radio. Please ensure that the centre have been informed of any change in home telephone number, main email contact and/or address.

Emergency Contacts

Parents are asked to provide the nursery with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two contacts (who live close to the school) for use in case of an emergency. This should be other than the parents of the child. We also ask that you keep the nursery up-to-date of any changes in this information.

Photography and Videography

Photographic and/or video recordings are made for educational purposes. A procedure has been put in place by Glasgow City Council which means that every parent will be asked to complete permission forms for internal and external photographs (including use of photos on our website). The school will analyse the returns and provide nursery staff with a reference sheet. Hopefully all parents will agree to the internal use of photographs and publication of photos on the school website. Please inform the Head Teacher if you have any objections to this.

Parents will be informed by letter and school newsletter when a school photographer will be in the school / nursery.

Section 3: Medical Information

Medication

If your child is in need of medication during their time at nursery, you should discuss their requirements at your Care Plan meeting.



Prescribed drugs will be given at the discretion of the Depute Head of Centre and you will be required to fill in a medical form which authorises Early Years Staff to administer the drugs to your child. These forms are available from the nursery and school office.

If your child suffers from asthma, you must tell the nursery staff if there are any activities or specific circumstances which are likely to bring on an attack. If your child suffers from other medical conditions e.g. epileptic seizures, diabetes, severe allergies you must advise of any procedures to be followed and provide a medical plan if possible.

If your child becomes unwell

Our nursery staff require that you telephone them, if your child is not able to attend nursery on a particular day.

If your child becomes unwell while at nursery, contact will be made with either you or your emergency contact. If we cannot make contact with anyone, a member of staff will look after your child until the end of the session.

We will obtain the best medical attention as appropriate, e.g. call an ambulance if necessary.

Minor Accidents and Upsets

Although we hope that these will be few and far between, realistically, there will be occasions when they do occur. Our nursery staff are highly trained and extremely sympathetic. They will comfort your child and deal with each incident as they see it.

You will be informed of the occurrence of any minor accidents and there is a trained first-aider in the both the nursery and school.

Pre-School Medical

Families are normally contacted by their health visitor or GP to arrange a pre-school year medical.

Dental Inspection and Oral Hygiene

Dental inspections may be available during the course of the session. Parents will be informed of the dates of these inspections in advance. All children take place in daily tooth brushing after snack. If you do not wish your child to participate please notify the nursery office. I am sure you will agree that this is a valuable activity within the nursery.



Emergency Evacuation of the building

If an emergency arose in which children had to be evacuated from the building and could not return e.g. a serious fire, staff would escort children to Torrance Community Centre and notify parents as quickly as possible.

Section 4: The Early Years Curriculum

Curriculum for Excellence

It is our aim to ensure that each child has access to a relevant, broad, general and balanced education. In order to achieve this, we follow the 'Curriculum for Excellence' guidelines, which is a curriculum designed for children aged 3-18.

We plan learners' experiences using Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes and promote all aspects of the curriculum both indoors and outdoors.

Curriculum for Excellence aims to ensure that all children in Scotland develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need if they are to flourish in life, learning and work, now and in the future.

There are 8 curricular areas within Curriculum for Excellence:

- Literacy & English
- Numeracy & Mathematics
- Health & Wellbeing (including Physical Education)
- Social Studies
- Sciences
- Religious & Moral Education
- Expressive Arts (Art & Design, Drama, Music, Dance)
- Technologies

The purpose of the curriculum is encapsulated in the four capacities - to enable each child or young person to be a successful learner, a confident individual, a responsible citizen and an effective contributor.

Bringing learning to life and life to learning

Teachers and practitioners will share information to plan a child's 'learning journey' from 3-18 years, helping their progression from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and beyond - ensuring the change is smooth. They'll ensure children continue to work at a pace they can cope with and with challenges they can thrive on.



We offer a wide curriculum, which fosters the all-round development of your child. We aim to provide depth, breadth, challenge and enjoyment in all we teach. This is planned through a variety child-initiated and adult-initiated themes and activities.

We bring real life into our Nursery Class, making learning relevant and to help our children apply their learning to their life beyond the setting. It links knowledge in one subject area to another helping children understand the world and make connections. It develops skills so that children can think for themselves, make sound judgements, challenge, enquire and find solutions.

Health & Wellbeing

This area of the curriculum encompasses social and emotional development, as well as physical development. Early Years children learn how to develop friendships, how to deal with people and situations out with the family setting and get to know the people who can help them look after them in school and the community. The children are also taught about what they need to do to help them grow and keep themselves healthy.

An important element of their learning is the awareness of the need for cleanliness, hygiene and safety, including washing hands and tooth brushing.



Opportunities for physical play will be provided both inside and outside. The children will have access to areas within the school including the school gym hall on a weekly basis, thus allowing for very energetic play in a very safe environment - no matter what the weather. Physical play activities include: balancing, throwing and catching, running, jumping, skipping, playing games, riding bikes and scooters. During this type of activity, children learn about the use of space, how to play with others and, most importantly, how to play safely. We also take groups of children into the local woods for some Forest Kindergarten experiences at various points throughout the year.



Literacy & English



The development of children's skills in Literacy & English are central to their abilities to communicate with others and to understand ideas and explore their own thoughts and feelings. The home language will be valued and encouraged. To do this, we provide opportunities to listen and enjoy stories, rhymes, music and songs, as well as listening to instructions and information from staff. Children are also encouraged to ask questions, describe their needs and experiences and to take part in conversations. An enthusiasm for books is a very important factor in developing languages. Books provide a vehicle to promote children's understanding of print, curiosity about words and the sound of words.



Early writing is encouraged through drawings and 'scribbles' (mark writing) where children are able to express their own thoughts and ideas. Lots of opportunities to have fun with words and to enjoy familiar songs, finger play and rhymes, as well as 'reading' books, talking about pictures and re-telling stories will be provided.

Numeracy & Mathematics

This area is closely linked with other aspects of learning. Children's natural curiosity drives them to explore and investigate their environment by observing shapes, colour, patterns and sequences of events by asking questions, matching, sorting and counting, comparing and learning about quantities by exploring and experimenting. Money is also explored through use in role play scenarios and children are encouraged to recognise coins.



Expressive Arts



Expressing and creating ideas, feelings and imagination, as well as having opportunities to enjoy all manner of sounds, sights and textures, are vital parts of the young child's development. In developing expressive and aesthetic experiences, the emphasis is on enjoyment, expression and learning during an activity.

Children will be given opportunities and freedom to choose, explore and to investigate using a variety of materials and techniques. They are encouraged to create their own pictures, paintings and constructions; to sing, play instruments and create their own music; to use movements, gestures and facial expression through role play.



Science

Science activities are very varied. The children become aware of their senses and use them to explore the world around them. They are given the opportunity to taste healthy foods and develop an understanding of how to keep healthy. Through our play, they find out about different materials and forces. Children also have the opportunity to learn about lifecycles and about how plants and flowers grow.



Technologies

In technology, not only do children have the opportunity to use a variety of realistic and programmable toys, cameras and computers, they are also involved in learning



about the need to recycle, construction and building. The children are also involved in the recycling of used materials as part of our ongoing Eco work.

Social Studies

In this area, we explore the world around us, the local area, the weather and seasons. We also put great emphasis on involving parents and members of the local community to talk to the children about their work. Some of the visitors have included vets, doctors, fire fighters, police officers, school crossing patrol and catering staff.

Religious & Moral Educations

We encourage children to recognise what is fair/unfair and consider the importance of caring for others and sharing. We also look at various festivals and customs that take place all over the world and celebrate these within our setting.



How we promote learning

We promote learning in our nursery class by:

- **Planning clear goals for the children's learning.**

These are designed to match the needs and achievements of all children.

- **Through observation of children at play.**

By using this procedure, our staff become aware of how and what your child is learning.

- **Keeping day-to-day records of observations and assessments.**

This enables us to plan responsive learning experiences which take account of our children's needs and developments.

- **Using reporting as a means of promoting partnership with parents.**

You may discuss your child's progress formally or informally with any member of staff. We encourage you to ask questions relating to your child's progress and to share any information which you feel is relevant with us.

Assessing children's development and progress.

In doing this, we aim to take account of all your child's needs - that is the physical, social, emotional, aesthetic and educational development.

- Our assessment is a continuous process which is carried out by observing, listening and talking to your child in the course of everyday activities.
- You will be invited to take part in the assessment of your child by means of informal chats and, if necessary, in more formal circumstances.
- We wish to emphasise that your child's own progress is the basis of our assessment, rather than their progress in relation to other children.

Supporting Children

Many children experience difficulties at some point during their school life. Often, these difficulties are temporary and are resolved as the child develops. This is the case in pre-five education, as it is in primary and secondary education.

Some difficulties are related to specific aspects of learning, for example speech and language development. In circumstances such as these, in consultations with parents, we often seek advice and support from external agencies such as speech and language therapists and psychological services.

If your child requires additional support, the Early Years staff will monitor their progress very carefully and ensure that an individual educational programme is in place. You will be consulted about this and asked to work in partnership with us.

Regular reviews of your child's progress will take place and all interested parties will participate in the discussion about the progress being made, the targets to be set and the next steps in your child's learning.

A small proportion of children have long term difficulties which require regular reviews with parents, nursery staff and other professionals in order to monitor progress.

It is important that parents, nursery staff and other professional bodies work together to support children's learning. By doing this, we are ensuring that each child has the opportunity to achieve their potential.



Section 5: Partnerships with Parents

Our staff are always happy to discuss your child's progress with you and you are welcome into our Nursery Class at any time.

At Quarry Brae Primary Nursery Class, we aim to:

- Involve parents in decisions which are taken about their children's education.
- Establish and maintain a two-way channel of communication with parents.
- Share experiences and keep parents informed of developments within the nursery unit.

There are several opportunities for parents to be involved in the life of our Nursery Class and these include:

- Welcome Induction Meetings - for future parents and children
- Induction Welcome Packs for parents
- Settling-in written reports for new starts
- Curriculum Open Night - 'What do we do at nursery?'
- Settling in Meeting - informal chat with key worker
- Open Days - morning and afternoon sessions
- Learning Journals - online profiles
- Parent interviews
- Annual written report / Transition Profile
- Surveys
- Take Home Lending Library
- Story Sacks
- Newsletters - nursery and primary school
- Home link sheets
- Displays
- Key Worker Meetings
- Letters
- Group Call text messages and emails
- Curricular Leaflets
- Positive Parenting Programme (PPP)
- Induction to Primary One Meeting and Workshop
- Early Years Parent Forum Committee - termly

We value your role in your child's learning. As parents, you are the prime educator in your child's early years and we hope that you will continue to play a major role in your child's learning when they come to our nursery. We welcome any contributions you may wish to make and look forward to establishing a positive relationship with you.

For more information on parental involvement or to find out about parents as partners in their children's learning, please contact the school or visit the Parent zone website at www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk.

Arrangements for Reporting to Parents

We hold an Open Evening in October and we formally report to parents on children's progress in May. Parents of pre-school children have the opportunity to meet with their child's keyworker for a 10-minute meeting. Staff complete a written 'Settling in Report' 6 weeks after the child starts. A 'Transition to P1' information document is completed in May and is shared with both parents and the child's receiving primary school. Children's progress in learning is recorded using 'Learning Journals' online which provides families with observations, photographs, videos, Curriculum for Learning links and this can be downloaded at the end of each nursery year.

Quarry Brae Primary Parent Council

The Parent Council is composed of parents, staff and co-opted members, with the Depute Head Teacher as professional advisor. A copy of the constitution is available on the school website, on request from the chair of The Parent Council or from the Head Teacher. The Parent Council meets approximately five times per year.

Change in Circumstances

It is helpful if you keep the nursery staff informed of anything happening at home which might affect the child's manner or behaviour in class - e.g. birth of a baby, death of a relative etc. It will help us understand what is going on and enable us to give suitable support. Anything you tell us is, of course, treated with complete confidentiality.

Change in Circumstances

It is helpful if you keep the nursery staff informed of anything happening at home which might affect the child's manner or behaviour in class - e.g. birth of a baby, death of a relative etc. It will help us understand what is going on and enable us to give suitable support. Anything you tell us is, of course, treated with complete confidentiality.

Working together to promote positive behaviour

It is our policy at Quarry Brae Primary School Nursery Class to promote positive behaviour. This is achieved by:

- Use of praise and positive reinforcement
- Encouraging our children to respect other children and adults
- Encouraging our children to respect the property of others
- Establishing routines and practices as part of the nursery programme

We work collaboratively with parents/carers to promote positive behaviours in our setting and at home. There are times when some behaviours can become challenging and require additional support from staff and parents. We may also ask for assistance from outside agencies. We can offer Parenting Advice for any parenting issue you might want support with.

Section 6: The Wider Community

The Local Community

At Quarry Brae Primary Nursery Class, we place a great deal of importance in our children having access to the local community. Visits to locations within the local area may be organised and members of the community may be invited into the nursery to meet the children.

We use a range of communication methods to share information about nursery, school and community events.

- Information will be displayed in the nursery foyer e.g. poster, notice board message
- Groupcall emails and texts will be sent out to one nominated parent/carer per child
- You can follow us on Twitter

Links with Quarry Brae Primary School

Our Nursery Class is part of Quarry Brae Primary School and the children attending our setting will have access to many of the resources available in the school, such as the gym hall, library, dining hall etc.

We have developed excellent nursery/primary liaison to ease the transition for the nursery pupils into the primary school. Children will be invited to take part in some of our infant assemblies. Our older pupils organise various events throughout the session for the nursery pupils, such as storytelling and a Teddy Bears Picnic.

Our nursery children also take part in concerts and visiting theatre companies and performances as we aim to encourage them to feel at ease within the Primary School.

Transition into Primary One

At Quarry Brae Primary School, we have well established links with all of the Early Years Centres in our local area. Throughout the year, nursery and primary staff meet to share information and create curriculum links. We are very aware of the fact that we have a small number of children who will not attend Quarry Brae Primary School. These pupils usually move on to one of the primary schools in the surrounding area. With parents' consent, information about these children will be passed on to the receiving school and staff who wish to visit the nursery will be most welcome.



Section 7: Child Protection

Child Protection Statement

All Glasgow City Council Establishments have a duty of care and welfare to the children attending. All adults promote children's health and safety and ensure, as far as possible, that all children are protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Children cannot be expected to take full responsibility for keeping themselves safe. Professional staff must work together in co-operation with families and carers to enable children to grow up in a warm, stimulating and safe environment.

Education staff are required to assist in the protection of children by:

- Creating and maintaining a positive and caring ethos
- Developing health and personal safety programmes
- Being observant of children's needs, views and concerns
- Reporting and recording concerns about the welfare or safety of children
- Monitoring and supporting children in co-operation with relevant professionals, parents and carers

Education staff cannot keep secret any allegations or concerns about child abuse, even if a child or adult requests this. Information or concerns that a child has been harmed or is at risk or harm must be passed on in order to protect the child. Staff will treat the matter sensitively and information will only be passed to those who need to know in order to protect and support the child.

If parents or others have concerns for any child, they can speak to the Head Teacher. They can also contact social work services and/or the police.

When a member of staff, a child or another individual provides information and the Head Teacher considers that there is a possibility that a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm, the Head Teacher is required to immediately contact the Social Work department to discuss the circumstances and agree the immediate action to be taken. School staff are then required to co-operate with any subsequent enquiries or support plans. Every education establishment or service has copies of Glasgow City Council Child Protection Procedures and Guidance. These are available for reference from the Head Teacher.

If you have a concern about a child, please do not keep it to yourself. You may wish to alert us or pass the information to Mrs S Adam HT Quarry Brae Primary 0141 554 1781.

Suggestions, Concerns and Complaints

We are always eager to maintain and improve our service. If you have any suggestions about our service or similarly, if you have any concerns, please contact the Depute Head of Centre or Head Teacher in the first instance.

If you feel your concern has not been satisfactorily resolved at this stage, please contact the Education Officer with responsibility for pre-five education or the Care Inspectorate.

Glasgow City Council Headquarters

Care Inspectorate
1 Smithshill Street
Paisley
PA1 1EB
Tel: 0141 843 6840

All complaints will be dealt with promptly and details of action to be taken will be communicated to the plaintiff within 28 days. The school follows the local authority complaints procedure and as such, you can be assured that any complaint will be investigated thoroughly.

Useful contacts:

Team Leader - 0141

Head Teacher - Mrs S Adam 0141 955 2228

Please note:

Although the information in this handbook is correct at the time of processing, there could be changes affecting any of the matters within it, either before or during your child's placement. You will be informed of any changes to important information.