Hi Mary Pat,

I am 30 years of age and have lived in the Wyndford community for the majority of my life. I attended Wyndford Nursery myself as a child so it was a natural choice to send my son when he turned 3.

I am a recent graduate and focused my dissertation around Scotlands Attainment Gap and the barriers to education often faced by children in deprived areas such as the Wyndford.

The foreword for my SW dissertation was a quote by Charles Dickens. It stated that "in the little world in which children have their existence, whosoever brings them up there is nothing so finely perceived and so finely felt as injustice". The attainment gap is an injustice to the children of our community and I truly believe the educators at wyndford nursery are taking steps forward in leveling the playing field for the children of the wyndford. Their obvious dedication, values led approach and tireless effort to engage families in their children's learning seems that it could often be a thankless task yet the educators remain determined.

The Wyndford community is often portrayed in a negative light and while it undeniably has its problems people often underestimate working class communities and the power social capital and relationships hold in such neighbourhoods. Under its rough and tough exterior the Wyndford is a place where goodness, kindness and compassion is often found. A strong sense of community can be found, Neighbours help Neighbours and people pull together in sometimes the saddest of circumstances.

We as a family appreciate Mary Pats ability to see the potential in our community and especially the children within it who deserve to enter primary education with all the same tools of their more affluent peers.

The staff here go above and beyond their duty of care. The community has changed drastically especially over the past 10 years yet Wyndford Nursery in my opinion is a hub that unites the youngest of our community regardless of race, religion or background. For many children it is a place of fun, where they can socialse and access a child friendly outdoor space where they can learn and play with their peers. However for other children I don't doubt that it is a place of safety, a safe haven where they know they will be cared for, protected and nurtured.

As a care experienced adult who attended university I understand first hand the barriers working class children face in accessing further education. My motivation to succeed was based on the belief that education is the only way out of poverty. Whilst I still believe this to be true my perception of its meaning has changed. When we think of poverty we often think of it in monetary terms however I have now came to realise that poverty is more than a financial circumstance. I consider a lack of knowledge or understanding of the society and the world around us as poverty. I read recently that every so often a person's mind is stretched to the point where it never returns to its previous state. Poverty is often generational issue, a cycle which requires breaking which means conqeiring it would require undoing or addressing generations worth of opinions, views, beliefs and lifestyles. I believe this is what is happening within Wyndford Nursery. Every day the educators at the nursery under Mary Pats guidance are stretching the minds our children who will one day be the next generation of our community and in doing so they are quietly implementing the change needed to quash generations of hardship. In creating a place of inclusion and equality the staff are very gently and very subtlety building the self esteem of the children whilst empowering them realise their agency and respecting their ability to make their own choices.

Wyndford nursery is a beacon of hope for our next generation, a metaphorical diamond in the rough and such an invaluable resource to the community.

I as a resident and especially a parent am excited at the prospect of the positive changes I believe the nursery are making within our community which has so much potential to succeed.

I don't think people realise just how special the nursery is.

Letter written by a parent of a child at Wyndford Nursery, July 2022.