

# Whiteness Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Whiteness Primary School  
Whiteness  
Shetland  
ZE2 9LJ

Telephone: 01595 745380

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 11 December 2017

**Service provided by:**  
Shetland Islands Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003002063

**Care service number:**  
CS2003016121

## About the service

The service operated from a purpose-built area situated within the Whiteness Primary School in Whiteness, an area on the west side of mainland Shetland. The nursery has recently been upgraded and the layout has changed. The area now consists of a main open-plan playroom with kitchen area, a cosy corner, children's toilets, nappy change facilities, storage areas and a small sleep room. Children have access to an outdoor courtyard area which is partially roofed. The service also have shared use of the school and grounds.

The service was registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 20 children aged 3 years to those not yet attending primary school. The service operated Monday to Friday, during term time only. The service is taking part in a pilot providing 1140 hours of free early learning and child care. Children can attend for a morning or an afternoon session as well as having the option to stay for the whole day.

The Care Inspectorate check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as 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. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included.

## What people told us

There were 12 children present during the morning session and six of those stayed for the lunch session. There was a change-over of some children after lunch as others came for the afternoon session. We talked with four of the parents during our inspection and asked their opinion of the service. We found they thought the premises were safe and secure, liked the recent changes to the environment and the fact the children could play outside daily. Parents told us there was a wide range of activities available to the children and all parents liked the staff stating they were: 'friendly and helpful' and 'easy to talk to'.

Before the inspection we sent out eight care standards questionnaires (CSQs) to parents using the service, and we received six completed CSQs. We email parents who supply an email address. From looking at the written comments we found parents were very happy with the service provided at Whiteness. Included within the written comments was:

'We are very happy with the quality of service and care provided by Whiteness. My child enjoys the range of activities on offer and has developed good relationships with the staff'.

We found the service was very child-led and that the views of the children were actively sought. We saw this happening naturally throughout the inspection, for example we heard staff asking for the children's opinions and how they might manage a task. We looked at the children's learning stories and the evaluation folder and noted staff included suggestions and ideas into these and shared this with parents.

We talked with the children who were happy to talk with us. They told us they liked coming to Whiteness and enjoyed their time there. When asked what was good fun they generally described their favourite activities. These were wide and varied and included playing outside, going to the library and having lunch. We observed the children and noted they were comfortable with the staff, familiar with the routines and happy and busy with the varied selection of activities provided.

We shared feedback with the head teacher and lead practitioner during the feedback session at the end of the inspection.

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their quality assurance processes and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of environment</b>	not assessed
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	not assessed
<b>Quality of management and leadership</b>	5 - Very Good

## What the service does well

Children were cared for by friendly, kind and caring staff who clearly enjoyed their role. Staff were enthusiastic about the new extended session and asked frequent questions about ways they could improve. There was an ethos of improvement within the service which was reflected in the school improvement plan and the early years development plan. Staff regularly attended in-service training days and kept up-to-date with current childcare initiatives. They used new knowledge to support continued improvement at Whiteness. We noted the head teacher provided strong leadership and was well-liked by parents.

Children were assured of continuity of care between the home and the setting through effective communication. Since the previous inspection they had introduced a "Blog", which was well-used by parents. Staff had developed effective working relationships with parents, who told us they felt welcome at Whiteness and had opportunities to be involved in their child's learning through the learning stories as well parents evenings. The parents liked the changes within the setting and the happy atmosphere.

We noted a very good start had been made to monitoring the children's progress. They used "da muckle book" to plan with the children, which they evaluated and shared with parents. We saw staff engaging positively with children, valuing their opinions and stories. Children were encouraged to investigate and explore by themselves. Children were learning naturally through self-initiated play and investigation using a wide selection of resources and materials. They were happy, independent and confident. Staff celebrated the children's work through displays on the walls and genuine praise and encouragement. Children's involvement in their learning was evaluated using a tracking system, the learning stories and information displayed on the notice board.

Health and wellbeing were set firmly in all aspects of the play environment and daily routine. Staff knew the children well and could describe how they met their individual needs. Each child had a care plan which was regularly reviewed. Children had regular access to fresh air and exercise having free flow between the playroom and courtyard at times throughout the day. Staff were working on the outdoor area which provided a safe and interesting outdoor learning environment. Children could use the hall for physical sessions as well as areas surrounding the school, which contributed to their physical skills and health and wellbeing. Staff reminded children about safety and to be aware of risk. Staff were very good role models regarding behaviour and manners and we saw children sharing, taking turns and being considerate with their friends as well as tidying up.

## What the service could do better

The service had identified various areas they planned to develop on the school improvement plan and on their own early years development plan. We agreed they needed to continue to monitor:

- the operation and evaluation of the pilot (extended session) ensuring this is meeting the needs of the children. Staff teamwork is key to this and they should continue having regular full team meetings which will ensure they are promoting good outcomes for children.
- promoting the use of the outdoor area and ensuring children have regular access to fresh air and exercise. Equally, need to ensure those who need to rest have ample opportunities for this. We discussed infection control and ensuring children had individual bedding.
- how children are enjoying having lunch within the service.

We noted the service is known as Whiteness Early Years. We discussed this with the head teacher and advised her to notify the Care Inspectorate so a new certificate of registration which would include the change of name could be issued.

## 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](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
2 Dec 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good

Date	Type	Gradings	
24 Jan 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good Not assessed

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