

# Woodhead Primary School Nursery Class Day Care of Children

Woodhead Crescent  
Hamilton  
ML3 8TB

Telephone: 01698 457 669

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
15 September 2021

**Service provided by:**  
South Lanarkshire Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003003481

**Service no:**  
CS2019374274

## About the service

Woodhead Primary School Nursery Class registered with the Care Inspectorate on 07 August 2019.

The service is provided by South Lanarkshire Council and is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 60 children at any one time aged from three years to those not yet attending primary school.

The service is based within a residential part of Hamilton, South Lanarkshire and is close to main roads, public transport and other local amenities.

The service aims included a vision statement of 'We Work, We Play, We Succeed'. This was supported by core values of friendship, determination, respect, honesty, excellence and equality.

As part of this inspection we took into consideration Key Question 5 - Operating an early learning and childcare setting (including out of school care and childminders) during Covid-19 with a specific focus on Quality indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff. We will report on the overall performance of this indicator in Theme 1: Quality of care and support.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure that 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. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

We compiled this report following an unannounced visit, which took place on Monday 13 September 2021. We conducted further inspection activity remotely and provided feedback to the management team and provider representative on Wednesday 15 September 2021.

The inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate. A team manager was also present throughout the inspection as part of our internal quality assurance processes.

## What people told us

We spoke to four parents by telephone during this inspection and received comments from a further four by email. We followed up one email with a a telephone call. All parents told us they were happy with the care their child received while attending the service. Strengths that were highlighted included the settling in process for new children and the use of learning journals to keep families up to date. In addition, parents commented very positively on the role of the management team and how they had ensured the safe running of the service during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We spoke to several children throughout the course of the inspection. Children told us about some of the things they liked to do at nursery including playing with friends and digging for worms. Children were happy and settled and enjoyed playing in the playroom and outdoor area.

## Self assessment

We received a completed Covid-19 self-evaluation from the service prior to this inspection.

This identified the measures that were in place to keep children safe while the service was operating during the pandemic. We also sampled the service's own self-evaluation and monitoring processes and discussed how these were being used to monitor and plan for improvement.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

|                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Quality of care and support          | 4 - Good      |
| Quality of environment               | 4 - Good      |
| Quality of staffing                  | 4 - Good      |
| Quality of management and leadership | 5 - Very Good |

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

This inspection took place at a time of transition with several new members of the staff team and other changes that had taken place to the playroom as a result of changes in Covid-19 operating guidance. Staff were working hard to ensure that children had positive experiences and had taken the time to get to know each child. This demonstrated that each child was valued as an individual.

Children were happy, settled and enjoyed playing with friends. Their interactions with staff and peers while playing were having a positive impact on wellbeing and provided a supportive and nurturing environment for play and learning.

A range of play and learning opportunities were available for children with activity planning based on children's interests. The system for planning had been reviewed with new processes for monitoring children's interests being rolled out on the first day of the inspection. We encouraged the service to continue to monitor the effectiveness of how children's interests were being supported by the toys and activities on offer.

Children had personal plans that contained the important information required by legislation and had been developed in consultation with parents. Regular communication with parents through learning journals and phone calls ensured that opportunities were provided to update information. We discussed the importance of clearly recording all review dates and how consultation with parents had been carried out to ensure plans clearly evidenced how they complied with legislation.

We observed the lunch experience for children. The lunch provided was in line with nutritional guidance and staff sat with children promoting positive interactions and close supervision.

However, we identified areas where this experience could be improved to ensure all children enjoyed as relaxing an experience as possible, particularly at the end of the meal time. We discussed this with the management team and agreed that consideration would be given to how this could be improved.

This would include ensuring the transition between the dinner hall and play room considers children's needs and wishes on an individual basis. Careful consideration should also be given to the suitability of the lunch environment for the age and stage of development of younger children.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. For example, we observed staff following physical distancing guidance and there were robust risk assessments, suitable ventilation and cleaning processes in place. We highlighted the importance of ensuring the proper processes for the use of face coverings were followed to ensure face coverings did not become contaminated.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The nursery playroom was bright, clean and tidy, providing a welcoming environment for children. The playroom was accessed through a secure entry system, which ensured children were safe and protected from harm. Daily checks of the indoor and outdoor areas were carried out to ensure all areas were safe for children to use.

Recent changes had been made to the physical environment as children were no longer being cared for in smaller groups, which was in line with the latest Covid-19 guidance. As a result, children now had the opportunity to move freely between the indoor and outdoor areas throughout the session. This supported children to have more independence in choosing where to play. As the changes had only recently taken place, staff were considering how the indoor environment would be arranged to best meet children's needs and interests. This would allow the space to be used to its full potential as a quality environment for play and learning.

The outdoor area was mostly tarmac and synthetic grass with a small area of grass and mud. Staff confirmed the synthetic grass was risk assessed in inclement weather as it could become wet, which increased the possibility of children slipping. Plans were in place to replace this with turf, which would increase the natural environment available to children as well as meaning the space could be more accessible in all weathers. A forest trail within the school grounds was also used to provide additional play opportunities in a natural environment.

Children were able to choose from a range of play spaces throughout the indoor and outdoor areas. The outdoor area offered opportunities for risk and challenge, including a climbing frame, pirate ship and stacked crates that children could climb on. Staff were vigilant and supported children where needed, for example holding their hand as they jumped down from the crates. This helped children develop their confidence in a safe and nurturing way.

Good infection control processes were in place to help maintain a safe environment. This included toilets and changing areas being clean and tidy as well as access to suitable handwashing facilities for staff and children. We highlighted how storage of personal protective equipment (PPE) could be improved to ensure this is always stored in lidded boxes to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. We asked the management team to consider where cleaning materials and children's individual nappy supplies were stored. This would reduce the movement of staff between the changing space and other areas, further reducing the possibility of cross-contamination.

### Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

### Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of staffing

### Findings from the inspection

Although the majority of the staff team were new to the service, work had been undertaken to ensure the impact on children was minimised. For example, all key workers had made phone calls to parents or sent messages through the online learning journals. As a result, all staff were aware of children's individual preferences and health and wellbeing needs during the transition period.

Staff interactions with children were warm, nurturing and kind. Staff were responsive to children and were deployed in a way that ensured suitable levels of supervision. Staff were developing their confidence as a team and felt supported by the team leader and other members of the management team. This ensured staff were able to provide a good quality of care and further reduced the impact changes had on children.

Emphasis had been placed on identifying each member of the team's key strengths and how this could be used to provide positive experiences for children. The planned next steps would include a focus on the development needs of the team. We discussed how this could consider the team's level of knowledge and understanding of key best practice documents. This would help staff to further develop their understanding of current early learning and childcare policy and how this can be used to enhance the care provided to children.

Staff were aware of their role in child protection and keeping children safe from harm. This included being aware of the correct processes to follow in the event that they had concerns about a child. All staff had undertaken recent child protection training with some having completed additional online modules, which included a focus on the impact of Covid-19.

We were confident staff would respond correctly if concerned about a child. We asked the service to update their child protection policy to clearly link to current guidance, which had recently changed. This would ensure staff had access to the latest guidance on child protection.

A training plan was in place to support staff to access learning and development opportunities. Staff were in the process of developing their approach to evaluating training. Continuing with this would support them to assess how their learning would be used to enhance the experiences provided to children.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

There was a clear management structure in place with the head teacher, depute head teacher and nursery team leader making up the core management team. The management team had a visible presence within the service and worked closely with parents and children to ensure they felt included, valued and respected.

Robust quality assurance processes were in place, which helped support the monitoring and development of the service. These included a recovery and improvement plan, which was detailed and provided clear outcomes and success criteria. As a result, the service was well placed to implement improvements identified during inspection and through their own monitoring.

The depute head had remit for overseeing additional support needs provision within the nursery and links were in place with other professionals and agencies including speech and language and educational support staff. This meant that very good systems were in place to provide targeted and focused support for children who needed this. One parent told us that this had been important to their child and was supporting them to reach their full potential.

A distributed leadership model was being developed with each staff member taking responsibility for leading key aspects of service delivery. This included developing the nurture room and how nurture was integrated into the setting along with other play and learning areas such as language and outdoor play. This meant that staff were able to use their individual strengths to contribute to the care provided to children.

We discussed with the management team, how some documents could be updated to reflect current best practice including the parent handbook, medication forms and accident forms.

These were minor changes and the service agreed they would be implemented quickly to ensure all information was clear and accurate.

### Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

### Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

## 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.

## 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).

## Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

## Inspection and grading history

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.



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