

# Dunblane Primary School

## Nursery Class

### Curriculum Policy



Updated August 2017

## Rationale

To provide children with a sound basis for their development as lifelong learners with the capacity to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

This policy will make reference to local and national guidance, including Stirling Council's learning policy 'Making a Difference', Pre Birth to Three, Curriculum for Excellence, Determined to Succeed, United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child and Building the Ambition. This guidance reflects our work in the key aspect of children's learning identified in The Child at the Centre. It incorporates the eight curricular areas identified in Curriculum for Excellence and the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators identified in GIRFEC. This policy will encompass the school values and Nursery aims.

## National Guidance

Dunblane Primary School follows the National Guidance;

- Pre-Birth to Three: Positive Outcomes for Scotland's Children and Families
- GIRFEC
- 3-18 Curriculum for Excellence.

These documents support and inform our curriculum policy and practice in working with children 2 - 5 years and their families.

The guidance Pre-Birth to Three: Positive Outcomes for Scotland's Children and Families identifies four key principles:

- **Rights of the Child**
- **Relationships**
- **Responsive Care**
- **Respect**

Based on these key principles staff adopt a responsive, respectful and sensitive approach to working with very young children, parents and carers.

Getting it right for every child (**GIRFEC**) is the national approach to improving the wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland.

We believe every child should be:

- Safe
- Healthy
- Achieving
- Nurtured
- Active
- Respected
- Responsible
- Included

The aims of **Curriculum for Excellence** are that every child and young person should know they are valued and will be supported, through the four capacities to become:

- **Successful Learners**
- **Confident Individuals**
- **Responsible Citizens**
- **Effective Contributors**

All children at Dunblane Primary Nursery class will be provided with a curriculum that includes a range of features at the differing stages of development.

In summary, our children will experience:

- **A Coherent Curriculum** - Taken as a whole, children's learning activities should combine to form a coherent experience.
- **Challenge and Enjoyment**- To ensure the children find their learning challenging, engaging and motivating. The curriculum should encourage high aspirations and ambitions for all.
- **Breadth** - A broad, general education, including experiences and outcomes which are well planned across all the curriculum areas, beginning from early years. A broad, suitably weighted range of experiences.
- **Progression** - The children should experience continuous progression in their learning from 3 to 18 within a single curriculum framework.
- **Depth** - opportunities for children to develop their full capacity for different types of thinking and learning.
- **Personalisation and Choice** - The curriculum should respond to individual needs and support particular interests.
- **Relevance** - Children should understand the purpose of their experiences. They should see the value of what they are learning and its relevance to their lives, present and future.

## **School Values**

A set of core values for Dunblane Primary School community was agreed following extensive consultation with children, staff and parents. We believe that the work and life of our Nursery should be underpinned by these values as they will provide a point of reference which informs our decision making. Our values should be reflected in the behaviours, expectations and attitudes of everyone in Dunblane Primary School Community.

Our agreed shared values of Dunblane Primary School and Nursery Class are:

### **RESPECT:**

*To care for ourselves and others by valuing all property, opinions and beliefs.*

### **RESPONSIBILITY:**

*To treat others as we would like to be treated and accept the outcomes of our actions.*

### **CARE & COMPASSION:**

*To actively show empathy and sensitivity towards each other and the world around us.*

### **FAIRNESS & EQUALITY:**

*To feel we are all justly treated.*

### **HONESTY:**

*To be reliable and trustworthy and have the courage to be truthful.*

## **Nursery Aims**

As an educational establishment with trained and motivated staff we intend to implement the following aims.

- Provide each child in our care with the opportunity to develop his/her skills and knowledge in a stimulating and challenging environment.
- Encourage and empower children to be successful learners by providing a variety of high quality and challenging learning experiences.
- Offer a motivating and relevant curriculum that will provide our children with life skills and support independence, choice and responsibility.
- Promote and embed our values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Care & Compassion and Fairness & Equality throughout all areas of nursery and school life.
- Develop and maintain positive and effective relationships with children, parents/carers, partner agencies and establishments and the wider community.
- Ensure continuous improvement and positive outcomes for all children which reflect the changing nature of the world around us.
- Foster a sense of pride in Dunblane Primary School and Nursery Class, representing them positively in the local community and beyond.

## Policy Aims

*The purpose of the curriculum at this early stage is to support children in all aspects of their emotional, social, cognitive and physical development. It should enable them to become increasingly independent, responsible and eager to progress in their learning. Staff achieve this through their skilled interaction with each child and by providing stimulating contexts for active learning, building upon the child's interests, knowledge and skills and recognising his or her stage of development. They can build upon children's enthusiasm, inventiveness and creativity to plan stimulating and engaging learning experiences which combine to achieve this purpose.*

- Our aim in developing our curricular policy is to be aware of the importance our practice as educators, has on children's development and learning.
- Our curricular policy will reflect current practice, the Nursery aims, values and principles.
- At Dunblane Nursery we have a holistic approach to the curriculum where staff facilitate learning opportunities and provide a supporting role.
- We aim to provide a unique and high quality service for children.
- We aim to provide an appropriate and child centred learning environment which will support children's freedom of choice and responsibility.
- Children's prior learning and knowledge is recognised.
- We endeavour to work in partnership with children parents, carers & other agencies.
- The community in which we live will be reflected in planning and key areas.
- Children will be given opportunities for free and structured play.
- Staff will monitor and observe children to determine interests which in turn will inform planning.

Planning will be determined by children's interest and knowledge and evidence of learning will be documented.

Documentation will centre on;

- SHANARRI pathways and possible lines of progression
- Five key areas of learning **with Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing** being the three overarching Learning Outcomes and Experiences.
  1. Health & Wellbeing
  2. Literacy & English
  3. Numeracy & Mathematics
  4. Expressive Arts
  5. Other significant areas (Social Studies, RME, Sciences, Technologies)

## SHANARRI pathways and possible lines of progression

*The wellbeing of children and young people is at the heart of Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC). The approach uses eight areas to describe wellbeing in which children and young people need to progress in order to do well now and in the future. These eight areas are set in the context of the 'four capacities', which are at the heart of the Curriculum for Excellence.*

### The eight indicators of wellbeing

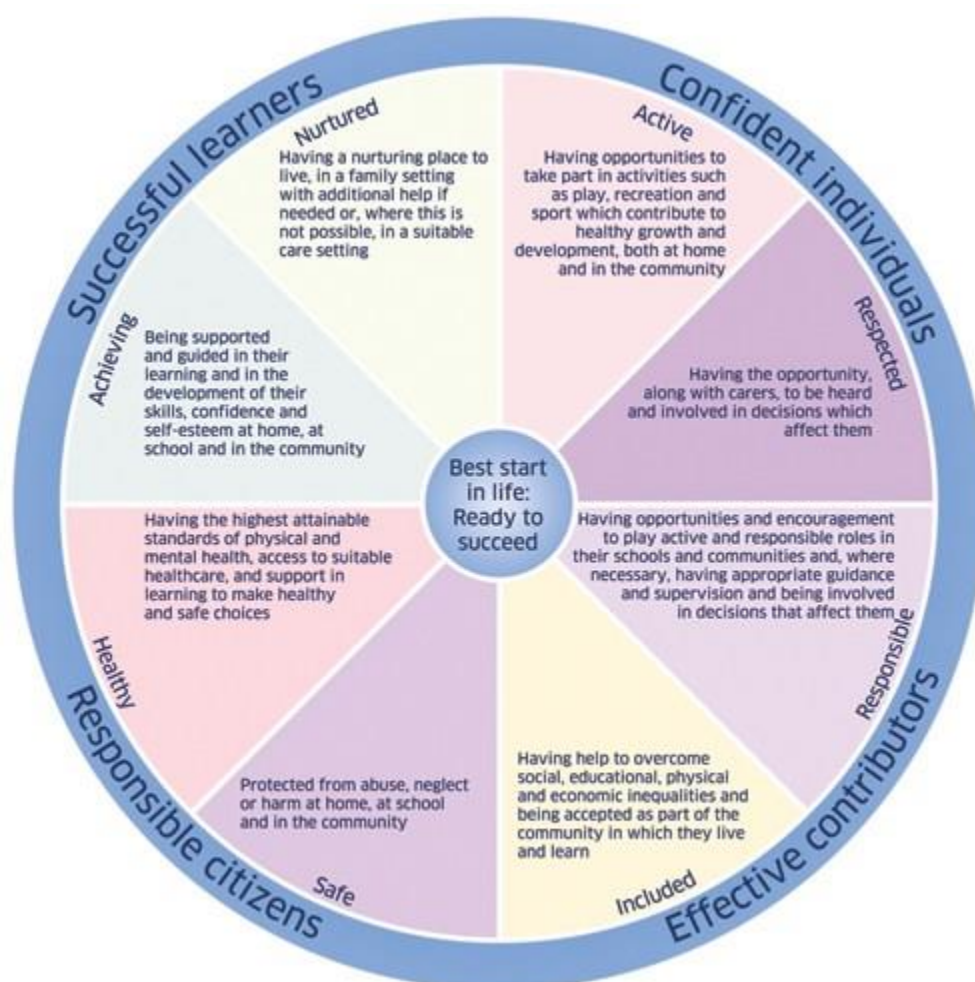
**Safe**  
**Active**

**Healthy**  
**Respected**

**Achieving**  
**Responsible**

**Nurtured**  
**Included**

These are the basic requirements for all children and young people to grow and develop and reach their full potential. They are shown in the diagram which we call the Wellbeing wheel.



The Wellbeing Indicators are used to record observations, events and concerns and as an aid in putting together a child's plan - if one is needed.

## Health & Wellbeing

*Learning in Health & Wellbeing ensures that children and young people develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for now and in the future.*

Health & Wellbeing is crucial to promoting all other areas of development. Children need a basis of love, encouragement and acceptance through which to face the wider world and make positive and fulfilling relationships.

Children need to know that educators are interested in their thinking, respect their ideas, are sensitive to their feelings and value their contributions through

Our objectives at Dunblane Nursery will be to promote and develop Pre-birth to Three, **Growing and Moving** and each area of **Health & Wellbeing**:

1. **Mental, social, physical and emotional Wellbeing**
2. **Planning for choices and changes**
3. **Physical education, physical activity and sport**
4. **Food and health**
5. **Substance misuse**
6. **Relationships, sexual health and parenthood**

We will do this by;

- Promoting the school values; Respect, Equality & Fairness, Honesty, Care & Compassion and Responsibility.
- Giving value and respect to children and parents and other service users.
- Developing children's self awareness, self worth and respect for others through positive praise, nurture and encouragement.
- Respecting children's individuality.
- Recognising personal achievements, building resilience and developing confidence.
- Consulting with children at all levels of the planning process.
- Giving children the opportunity to meet challenges, make choices and build relationships in which we support and respect their decisions.
- Developing physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.
- Developing social skills.
- Providing a wide range of physical activity to promote an active healthy lifestyle.
- Exploring food, exercise, behaviour and relationships and how they may affect children's physical and mental wellbeing.
- Ensuring that children know the adults have a responsibility to look after them, listen to them and involve others where necessary.
- Ensuring that children know what it means to keep themselves and others safe in a variety of situations and emergencies.

## Literacy & English

*Literacy is fundamental to all areas of learning, as it unlocks access to the wider curriculum and increases opportunities for the individual in all aspects of life.*

Developing skills in literacy give children the confidence and ability to reflect, communicate, share and develop ideas. It instils a love of reading and exploring different types of media and text.

Our objectives at Dunblane Nursery will be to promote and develop Pre- birth Three, **Communication and Socialisation** and each area of **Literacy & English**;

1. **Listening and Talking**
2. **Writing**
3. **Reading**

We will do this by;

- Expressing feelings needs and desires.
- Interactive Communication.
- Communicating, collaborating and building relationships.
- Engaging with and creating a wide variety of 'texts' in different media.
- Exploring the richness and diversity of language.
- Extending and enriching children's vocabulary through listening, talking, watching and reading.
- Exploring and discussing word patterns and text structures.
- Using relevant, real-life and enjoyable contexts which build upon children's experiences and interests.
- Establishing a balance of spontaneous play and planned activities.
- Giving children the opportunity to mark make and engage in early writing experiences, using a wide range of resources, across Nursery.
- Providing opportunities for collaborative working and independent thinking and learning.
- Making meaningful links for learners across different curriculum areas.
- Providing opportunities to communicate in a wide range of contexts, for relevant purposes and for real audiences within and beyond places of learning.

## **Numeracy & Mathematics**

*Numeracy and Mathematics are important in our everyday life, allowing us to make sense of the world around us and to manage our lives.*

Children can be successful with mathematics, provided that they have opportunities to explore mathematical ideas in ways that make personal sense to them and opportunities to develop mathematical concepts and understanding.

Our objectives at Dunblane Nursery will be to promote and develop Pre-Birth to Three, **Exploration and Discovery** and each area of **Numeracy & Mathematics**:

- 1. Number Money and Measure**
- 2. Shape Position and Movement**
- 3. Information Handling**

We will do this by:

- Exploring and discovering Numbers and Numbers and Quantity/Shape/Patterns Size/Measure/Matching and sorting/Money/Time/Direction /Information symbols, signs, charts.
- Providing an environment (including indoor, outdoor and emotional environments) which will play a significant role in supporting young children's mathematical learning.
- Providing children the opportunity to explore estimation and rounding, number and number processes, money, time, measurement, patterns and relationships.
- Explore properties of 2D shapes and 3D objects, angle and symmetry.
- Developing data analysis skills in sorting, matching and categorising and understand findings can be displayed in different ways.
- Developing essential numeracy skills which will allow children to participate fully in society
- Understanding how the imaginative and effective use of technologies can enhance the development of skills and concepts.
- Supporting children in developing their understanding of problem solving, reasoning and numeracy in a broad range of contexts in which they can explore, enjoy, learn, practise and talk about their developing understanding.
- Providing opportunities to consolidate skills and to gain confidence and competence in their use.

## Expressive Arts

*The inspiration and power of the arts play a vital role in enabling our young children to enhance their creative talent and develop their artistic skills.*

The expressive arts are a crucial part of early childhood. They allow children to express their ideas and feelings, to make sense of the world in a very practical way, to experience making choices and decisions, promoting dispositions of independence and perseverance. Not only do expressive arts allow children to express themselves through broadening their imagination, curiosity and exploration, but creative activities can enhance development of children's skills across the Early Level.

Our objectives at Dunblane Nursery will be to promote and develop Pre-Birth to Three, **Creating and Re-Creating** and each area of **Expressive Arts**;

1. **Participation in Performances and Presentations**
2. **Art and Design**
3. **Dance**
4. **Drama**
5. **Music**

We will do this by:

- Giving children opportunities to be creative and express themselves in different ways.
- Active involvement in creative activities and performances.
- Contributing to other people's enjoyment through creative and expressive performance and presentation.
- Providing opportunities to perform or present to an audience.
- Developing skills that are specific to the expressive arts, i.e. creating images, using malleable materials, model making and those which are transferable.
- Giving children opportunities to explore different techniques, materials and resources.
- Offer children opportunities to engage in movement experiences in spontaneous and structured play.
- Appreciation of expressive movement and dance.
- Early responses and engagement to role play/drama prompts.
- Developing an appreciation of aesthetic and cultural values, identities and ideas.
- Establishing partnerships with professional performers or artists and other creative adults.
- Appropriate, effective use of technology.
- Collaborative and independent learning.
- Providing opportunities to analyse explore and reflect.
- Opportunities for performance and early responses to music and creating music.
- Spontaneous expressive movement.
- Recreation of playful, expressive and rhythmic movements.
- Accompanying and Re-creating songs and music.

## Other significant areas

*All children should have opportunities for a broad, suitably weighted range of experiences. The curriculum should be organised so that they will learn and develop through a variety of contexts within both the classroom and other aspects of Nursery life.*

Children's interests lie in many different areas and directions and in recognising the diversity of children's learning it is crucial to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that offers depth of learning and opportunities for investigation and exploration. Identifying a child's community and culture is of paramount importance.

Our objectives at Dunblane Nursery will be to promote and develop each area:

- 1. Sciences**
- 2. Technologies**
- 3. Social Studies**
- 4. Religious & Moral Education**

We will do this by:

- Exploring and Discovering through all my senses:
- Sight/Smell/Taste/Hearing/Touch/Combined senses.
- Exploring my environment.
- Investigating plants and growing.
- Investigating Creatures.
- Exploring natural materials.
- Appreciating my environment.
- Developing curiosity and understanding of the environment and a child's place in the living, material and physical world.
- Recognising the impact the Sciences make on our lives and the environment.
- Developing the skills of scientific investigation using practical experiences and activities.
- Recognising the role of creativity and inventiveness in the development of the Sciences.
- Gaining the confidence and skills to embrace and use Technologies.
- Developing an understanding of the role and impact of Technologies and how they can help us in our everyday lives.
- Developing an understanding of the local and wider community.
- Broadening our understanding of Scotland and its place in the world.
- Showing respect for others and having an understanding of beliefs and practices which are different from our own.
- Recognising and understanding religious diversity and the importance of religion in society.
- Following the aims, principles and values of our school.