

George Watson's College Day Care of Children

67-71 Colinton Road
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Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

19 November 2018

Service provided by:

The Merchant Company Education
Board

Service provider number:

SP2003003566

Service no:

CS2003016179

About the service

George Watson's College nursery was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate in April 2011. The nursery is based within the grounds of George Watson's College. It is registered to care for a maximum of 112 children aged from three years to primary school age with a maximum of 64 children in the Lower Primary Nursery Facility and a maximum of 48 children in the new Myerside House Nursery Facility.

Children have access to playrooms, outdoor play areas, loose parts area and nearby woodland. They also have access to the wider school facilities including the sports hall, library, science lab and school playing fields.

The aims and objectives of the service are:

- "To nurture well-being.
- To support risk taking.
- To provide high quality experiences.
- To captivate and challenge.

We check that services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by the Scottish Government GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included.

What people told us

We issued 25 Care Standard Questionnaires to the service to give to parents prior to the inspection. Seventeen of these were returned before the inspection took place. Thirteen responded strongly agreed and four agreed with the statement "Overall I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service." During the inspection we spoke to a sample of parents as they picked their children up.

The following additional representative comments included:

"As a new parent to the school, I have been very impressed with both the facilities and with the staff. The staff genuinely care and clearly take pride in doing the very best they can for our children. I have no complaints about the service provided."

"My second child is only one week into nursery so it's difficult to comment fully but 1st child spent a year in the same nursery and I thought it was outstanding."

"A very good safe environment. My child is happy there."

"An excellent well run and friendly nursery. I would highly recommend it. The staff are wonderful they are experienced dedicated and very caring. Children benefit from weekly music, P.E. and art classes provided by teachers from the Junior school who specialise in these areas. There is a daily news letter which summarizes what's happened each day. Each child has a smile book which documents their nursery year and they are so proud of it. Items can be added by children and parents."

"I was particularly impressed by the way they supported and accompanied our discussion for deferral. It was very clear that whatever our decision they would be there and adapt to the needs of our child. Extremely caring and professional."

"Fantastic, safe secure and engaging environment for my child. Highly qualified and genuinely caring staff."

"I have nothing but praise for the staff my child has been very well looked after. The nursery head is very approachable and hands on."

"Staff always have time to talk if necessary. Information is good I always feel well informed."

"My child absolutely loves their nursery. They are always happy to go in the morning and often tell me it's too soon to go home. Lovely staff and lots of interesting things to play with."

"I am confident that my child is getting the very best start in their school career. I can't praise the nursery head and her staff enough they've created an environment where children can follow their interests and thrive."

"This is my second child to attend the nursery. I appreciate the consistency of staff and the professional and caring attitude they bring to their work. I would not consider using any other nursery but this."

Over the course of the day we chatted with several children they were happy to chat to us about what they were doing and some of the things they enjoyed about their nursery. Their comments included:

"I play with my friends because friendship is important."

"If you need any help ask a teacher or ask me I know a lot about my nursery."

"When I grow up I'm going to work here. I'm going to be a teacher and help everyone to learn all the things they need to know."

"Outside is my best thing which I love because it's fun."

Self assessment

We did not ask the service to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. During the inspection we spoke to staff about their understanding of the services improvement plan and quality assurance procedures. We were satisfied with the information we received which was confirmed by our findings.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	6 - Excellent
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

The well qualified and experienced staff team were confident in describing the needs and interests of the children in their care. It was apparent that they developed strong positive relationships with children. Children were nurtured by staff who took an individual approach to their needs tailoring the service in to meet them.

Staff identified strongly as part of a team who's role was to ensure that children had the best possible start in their education careers. Staffs commitment was reflected in the quality of outcomes for children who were confident and settled in their care.

Using a responsive planning model helped ensure staff captured children's interests and incorporated them into their planning. Children were developing independence and a sense of enquiry. Wherever they went in the nursery children saw their ideas and interests reflected in the activities and high quality resources available to them. This helped them to feel respected and valued as part of the nursery family. Children had access to the resources of the wider school. This allowed them to explore interests in music, art, science and technology in depth and to benefit from contact with staff who specialised in these areas.

Staff showed flexibility and commitment in their ability to identify and support children with additional needs. Retaining their own bank staff ensured that children experienced consistency of care from staff who shared the nursery values and expectations and had access to training, support and supervision.

Children's emotional wellbeing was nurtured because staff encouraged them to be kind, caring, think about others and to develop negotiation skills. The success of this was apparent in the quality of the interaction and conversations we observed among children.

The provider recognised the value of training in developing and retaining a skilled, well informed and reflective team. Staff were extremely positive about the wide range of training opportunities they were given in order to follow their own professional interests and to meet the needs of the service. This meant that children benefited from an exceptional range of skills. Staff with ten years of service were able to apply for a sabbatical in order to pursue a study interest. Staff skills and ambition were recognised and rewarded. Staff were encouraged to take on areas of responsibility within the nursery based on their area of expertise and interests and to contribute their ideas to the nursery development plan.

It was apparent from the warm welcome and the quality of conversations taking place when children were dropped of and picked up that staff valued and respected the input of parents into the nursery.

What the service could do better

The service should continue with their plans for the continuous development of the service as outlined by the Head of Nursery during the inspection.

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
16 Sep 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment 6 - Excellent Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership 6 - Excellent
10 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment 6 - Excellent Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership 6 - Excellent
11 Jun 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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