

# Welcome to Milngavie Early Learning and Childcare Handbook

2023  
to  
2024



Milngavie Primary School is an East Dunbartonshire Local Authority School.

Nursery address and telephone number:

2-4 Hillhead Street, Glasgow, G62 8AG  
0141 955 2253



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Milngavie Early Years Centre Hillhead Street  
Milngavie  
G62 8AG

**Tel:** 0141 955 2253

**E-mail:** [eyc@milngavie.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:eyc@milngavie.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)

**Depute Head of Centre:** Mrs Deborah Docherty

## **WELCOME**

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

Milngavie Early Years centre is directly adjacent to Milngavie Primary school and is situated in the heart of Milngavie Village. Partnerships are of huge importance to us and we encourage involvement from our children, parent/carers and our wider community to help Milngavie EYC grow and strengthen year on year. Staff support and care for each child to a very high standard and value the importance of building positive relationships with parents/carers and families and the benefit this has for the children. Our staff team are dedicated to providing the highest quality provision to all our children and we promote this through the use of policies and guidance as set out by the local authority/government. This includes embedding the UNCRC Rights of the Child as well as GIRFEC principles into our practice to ensure all that the wellbeing of the children is at the core of everything we do. Our planning follows the Curriculum for Excellence as well as Realising the Ambition: Being Me with cross curricular links throughout the whole nursery.\

The EYC consists of two main playrooms (Daisy room and Rainbow room named by our children) and two outdoor zones; one being a natural forest garden where children's imagination is ignited through exploration of our boat, willow tunnel and mud kitchen. The other outdoor area is an enclosed soft surfaced play area where children have access to large loose parts encouraging problem solving and team work. Our children also gain access to the 'muga', a purpose built enclosed pitch directly behind the centre as well as the Once Upon a Time Orchard where we go forging for fruit from our plum and apple trees and our berry bushes. Our poly tunnel (situated within the orchard) also provides an environment for planting/growing helping to encourage sustainability. Such wonderful outdoor environments are utilised fully in all weathers and seasons. At Milngavie EYC we operate a free flow environment where children independently access all areas. It is an exciting time for Milngavie EYC and Milngavie PS as we await the development of our new purpose built school and EYC with completion and relocation into the new settings estimated for August of 2025. Our website will provide you with further information of our Vision, Values and Aims as well as holiday dates, curriculum approaches and more.

If you require any further information then please do not hesitate to get in touch. My staff team and I look forward to welcoming you into our centre.

Kind regards,  
**Debbie Docherty**

**Depute Head of Centre**  
**Milngavie EYC**



## **Our Staff Team**

<b>Head Teacher</b>	Garry Graham
<b>Depute Head of Centre</b>	Debbie Docherty
<b>Senior Early Years Workers</b>	Lynn Wilson
<b>Early Years Teacher</b>	Krystal Anderson
<b>Team of skilled Practitioners:</b>	Angela Semple
	Jenna MacHattie
	Julie Bannerman
	Joshua Tennant
	Claire Watt
	Pamela Cameron
	Eileen Canning
	Jennifer Fox
	Marianne Mallon
<b>Clerical Assistant/ House Keeper</b>	Nikki Canavan
<b>Early Years Support Workers</b>	Lisa Smith
	Shona McInnes
	Abigail Carrick
<b>All day cleaners</b>	Louise McColl
	Donna Allan

Throughout the year we may also welcome students from local FE Colleges studying for NC's and HNC's in Childcare, and BA and PGDE student teachers from Strathclyde and Glasgow Universities to our staff team.





## **Our Building**

We are situated opposite Milngavie Primary School. It has two playrooms, children's toilets and disabled access and facilities. We have an enclosed soft surfaced play area to one side of the building and use of the school's Millennium Garden on the other. The garden was created by the PTA and is maintained by our parents. We now have the Once Upon a Time Orchard which is situated behind the building. These are both wonderful environments for outdoor learning and we use them in all weathers and all seasons.





## **Vision, Values and Aims**

At Milngavie EYC and PS we recently reviewed and updated our Vision, Values and Aims along with our School Vision and Curriculum Rationale and the class/school charter in consultation with our staff, children and families. At Milngavie PS & EYC we aim to provide education and care of the highest quality which fosters creativity and confidence, develops every child's skills, personality and talents and ensures they can achieve their full potential academically, emotionally and physically in a safe, happy and motivating learning environment which is at the heart of our community. This is rolled out through effective leadership across all levels so ensure a consistent approach across both our School and EYC community.

### **Our Vision**

Working Together, Respecting Others, Reaching our Full Potential

### **Our Values**

Trust, Respect, Resilience, Compassion, Inclusion, Fairness, Equality, Nurture

### **Our aims**

- To build a caring school ethos based on inclusion, fairness and respect for ourselves and others, promoting the health and wellbeing of the whole school community.
- To provide stimulating, challenging and meaningful learning experiences, meeting the needs and aspirations of all our children enabling them to face the challenges of the future in a digital world.
- To foster interest and enjoyment in learning, motivating children to think creatively and independently to become successful and confident lifelong learners.
- To develop positive, productive partnerships that are valued and recognised by our children, staff, parents and the wider community.
- To encourage responsible attitudes towards the environment and instil an awareness of our role as global citizens.

### **Our Motto**

*Fide et fortitudine*



## **Enrolment**

### **Admissions Policy**

All early years places are allocated in line with East Dunbartonshire Council's admissions policy and the Head of Centre/ Depute Head of Centre will be happy to advise you how this policy operates when you apply for a place for your child.

Guidance notes and admissions policy can be accessed on the East Dunbartonshire website.  
<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-early-years-centres-and-learning/early-years>

It is important that you make an application by the end of February for children aged three to five for places for the forthcoming school year. Funded places can be accessed either in a local authority Early Learning and Childcare Centres or with a funded partner provider in the private, voluntary and independent sector as well as childminders who have been accepted onto East Dunbartonshire Council's framework to provide early learning and childcare.

For administration purposes, parents are asked to complete an online registration form that can be found on the East Dunbartonshire website between January and end of February. Parents are asked to upload the relevant birth certificate(s), proof of residency and a utility bill when enrolling their child(ren) if they are East Dunbartonshire residents. Parents who live out with East Dunbartonshire do not require proof of residency.

It is important to note a placement within an East Dunbartonshire Nursery/Partnership Centre does not give children an automatic place within an East Dunbartonshire Primary School.

This application process is continuous throughout the year and places will be allocated against the admissions policy criteria. Registering for Nursery Parents applying for a nursery place must register online at [www.eastdunbartonshire.gov.uk](http://www.eastdunbartonshire.gov.uk)

You will need to upload:

- your child's birth certificate
- proof of residency (council tax statement)
- utility bill.

Milngavie Nursery Office [eyc@milngavie.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:eyc@milngavie.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)



## **Paperwork**

Once your place has been confirmed you will be asked to complete your child's Care plan. This should be completed and returned through email, alternatively given to your child's keyworker on their first day. Your child's keyworker will discuss the forms with you and answer any questions that you may have. It is vital that we have the **completed forms for your child starting**. If your child is attending for an extended day place, you will be asked to complete a contract with East Dunbartonshire Council. They will send you it by post – please can you ensure that you sign it and send it back to them as your child will not be able to take up their extended day place till it is returned.

**Please could you notify us immediately if your contact numbers change. It is essential that we keep our records up to date in case we have to contact you at any time. This can be done through the East Dunbartonshire Council website, on the alterations tab.**

### **Excursions and consent forms**

An EV3 form will be made available during the enrolment stage at nursery which will cover your child to access local outing for one year at nursery, this will be updated in your child's second year. Please note that children cannot take part in outings unless completed consent forms have been submitted by their parent/ carer. For any extra curricular activity involving transport or outwith the local community parents/ carers will be notified in advance.

### **Emergency Closure**

We will be open during the session times noted previously, however circumstances may occasionally arise which cause us to close.

If we are affected by, for example, severe weather, power failures, difficulties with fuel or water supplies, we may have to close. If this happens we will do all we can to let you know about the details of closure and re-opening. We may keep in touch by telephone, notices in local shops and community centres, announcements in local churches, in the press and on local radio.

If a circumstance arises where the building has to be evacuated, the children would be taken to the school building and parents informed by telephone.



## **Emergency contacts**

At enrolment stage you will be asked to provide names, addresses and telephone numbers of two contacts (who live close to the nursery) in case of emergency. This should be other than the parents of the child.

You are asked to keep the nursery up to date with any changes with this information. This can be done by accessing East Dunbartonshire Council website and accessing an alterations form to submit any changes.

## **Change of nursery attendance pattern**

If you require to change your child's pattern of attendance this can be done by giving 4 weeks notice. Please access our East Dunbartonshire Council website and accessing an alterations form to submit any changes. We ask that you make one change per term only to allow us to allocate spaces for all children accordingly.



## **EYC Information**

**Our Address is :** Milngavie Early Learning and Childcare  
Hillhead Street  
Milngavie  
G62 8AG

**Our Nursery Telephone Number is:** 0141-955-2253

**Nursery email address:** [eyc@milngavie.eastdunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:eyc@milngavie.eastdunbarton.sch.uk)

Our ELC has the capacity for 44 children between the hours of 8am-6pm. Children receive 23.75 per week allocated hours or 1140 hours over the year. There can also be availability for additional paid hours.

### **ELC Hours**

Morning Session: 8.00am-12.45pm (including lunch)

Afternoon Session: 1.15pm – 6.00pm (including lunch)

Full day Session: 8.00am-5.00pm (wrap hours available until 6.00pm at a chargeable rate)

Children will not be permitted into the building until their allocated session time begins.

**Please adhere to the session times and pick up your child accordingly.**  
**Late pick up will not be tolerated as it effects staff to child ratio.**

### **Attendance**

ELC attendance is not compulsory, however for your child to get the best out their time with us, regular attendance is important. In the interests of child protection, if your child is ill and will not be attending please could you phone the school office and let us know. If you do not phone us, East Dunbartonshire Council require us to phone you.

### **Security**

Please always ensure that a responsible adult collects your child. We are not allowed to allow children to leave with anyone under the **age of 16**. If the person collecting your child changes over the course of the session, please phone the office to inform us of the change. Occasionally parents will forget to inform us of changes to their collection arrangements. In

this circumstance we will telephone the parent to confirm the new arrangement before allowing the child to leave.

### **Parking**

Parking outside can be difficult, particularly around 9.00 a.m. and at 3.00 p.m. The car park outside our building is the nursery and school **staff car park** and **strictly for staff only**. There are two disabled parking spaces on Hillhead Street, outside the school. When delivering or picking up your child please park considerately, avoiding the zig-zags and yellow lines. Please also be aware of the dangers to our children when driving near the school and alert anyone who may be picking your child up to the one way system in operation in Hillhead Street.

### **Prams and Buggies**

We always like to welcome little brothers and sisters who visit, but our cloakroom is quite small and there is little room for prams and buggies. Please leave your pram outside on the ramp and carry your little one in.

### **Suitable Clothing and provisions**

We encourage the children to change their own shoes and put on their own coats etc so if possible, please make the clothes worn as child friendly as you can. Children can bring slippers or soft shoes if they would find these more comfortable. We play outside in all weathers so please could your child have warm waterproof clothing with them in the winter and sunscreen on if we are lucky enough to see the sun in the summer. Children should also keep a pair of wellies in their group box. The garden can be very muddy and wellies are essential throughout the year.

Children often have the best fun when they are doing messy work. We will always try to make sure that overalls are worn, but accidents do happen so please dress your child in clothing you won't mind washing.

**Please ensure all clothes and footwear are labelled.**

### **Nappies**

If your child is still in nappies please ensure you provide enough nappies and wipes for the duration of their stay at nursery. Also if your child is toilet training you must provide several changes of clothing (underwear, socks and trousers) as accidents are still likely to happen. Soiled/dirty clothing will be bagged and placed in our collection box at the front door.

Every child is given a Nursery bag with their name on it which they keep at their nursery peg, all items of clothing brought in from home will be put in their bag. The bag brought in from home can be returned after their first day, this is to ensure that no bags are left at nursery.

## **Toys**

Sometimes children like to bring something special or a new toy to nursery for their friends to see, however parents should ensure that valuable items are not left at nursery, particularly as the authority has no insurance to cover the loss of such personal items.

While we support children bringing in 'transitional' objects from home to help them feel safe and secure we must make you aware that we cannot be held responsible if any items go missing. During settling in periods we have a 'special box' at our front door where toys and special items can be left for the end of each day to stay safe.

## **Lunch and Snack**

We wish to encourage and educate children to adopt healthy eating habits and we do this through our choice of snacks. An example of our snack and lunch menu will be sent out during the enrolment process. In addition to the foods listed we will also be having food related to our learning – (i.e. haggis when looking at Scottish culture, porridge –the 3 Bears story, fish if we are looking at Underwater environments etc.) We also celebrate cultural and religious festivals like Halloween, Diwali, Burns Day, Eid, Christmas, Easter etc and usually this includes some appropriate food.

Birthdays are very important to our children. We can help celebrate your child's big day. If you would like to provide a shop-bought cake, or two Swiss Rolls, we will provide the candles, a present and a big crowd of friends to sing, 'Happy Birthday'. We are unfortunately not allowed to accept home made birthday cakes due to very strict rules on food preparation, controlled by East Dunbartonshire Council's Environmental Health Department.

## **The Treat Fund**

Parents are asked to contribute 50p per session to our Treat Fund. This money is used to provide healthy snacks, parties and Christmas presents for the children. It also allows us to replace resources and buy special food or equipment to enhance our learning. It does not cover visits by puppet shows, theatre groups or our annual outing. Money for these will be requested and collected two weeks before the event.

Treat Fund contributions can either be made weekly, termly or for the whole year.

## **Photographs/Videos**

Photographic and/or video recordings are made for educational purposes. Photos may also be taken for the local press. Permissions will be asked for this on your child's Care Plan.

## **School Photographer**

Photographic and/ or video recordings are made for educational purposes. We ask that you complete permission forms for internal and external photographs (including photographs on our website).

Parents will be informed when a school photographer will visit the school.

## **Dental Inspection and Orthoptic Screening**

These may be available during the course of the session. Parents will be informed prior to any inspection date and asked for permission to examine their child. No child will be examined without parental consent.

## **No smoking policy**

Smoking is not permitted in the nursery or in the surrounding environment. Smoking is only permitted outside of the school grounds.

## **Policies**

We have a range of policies written to inform parents, staff and outside agencies of details of our practice. These are held in a policies folder in the Office and parents are welcome to see them at any time during the session. When reviewing policies in our handbook we ask parents for their opinions and ideas to ensure that they are user friendly.

## **Medical Information**

You are asked to give details of any medical information relevant to your child on the form completed on enrolment. Any medical or dietary requirements are noted and all playroom workers are made aware of them. Please update your child's keyworker if your child's medical details change at all.

## **Medication**

If your child requires medication to be administered, you should discuss his/her requirements with your child's keyworker. Prescribed drugs, inhalers etc., require a permission form, which authorises staff to administer the medication to your child. Forms are available from a member of staff, or from the nursery office. Please let us know if you have administered any form of medicine to your child prior to bringing them.

If your child suffers from asthma it would be helpful to let staff know if there are any particular activities or circumstances, which might bring on an attack.

If your child suffers from seizures, diabetes etc. please discuss the emergency procedures to be followed, fully, with your child's keyworker.



## **If Your Child Becomes Unwell**

Our nursery staff require that you telephone them if your child is not able to attend nursery on a particular day. If your child becomes unwell we will contact you or your emergency contact and ask you to collect him/her as soon as possible.

We follow the NHS guidance in regards to exclusions which can be found at [Guidance on infection control in schools poster.pdf \(hscni.net\)](https://www.hscni.net/guidance-on-infection-control-in-schools-poster.pdf).

**It should be noted that diarrhoea or vomiting illness requires children to be excluded for 48 hours from last episode of sickness and/ or diarrhoea.**

## **Minor Accidents and Upsets**

Although we do our best to ensure that these are few and far between, realistically there will be occasions when they do occur.

All our staff are highly trained and extremely sympathetic. They will comfort your child and deal with each incident as they see it. A majority of our staff are our trained first aiders and check anyone who has an accident. Parents are informed if a child has a bump to the head/face and contact for minor incidents can be specified within your child's Care Plan. You will be informed of any minor accident and asked to sign the Accident Form which details any treatment given.



## **Partnership with Parents**

Our staff will always be happy to discuss your child's progress with you and you are welcome at any time.

At Milngavie ELC we aim to:

1. Establish and maintain a good two way channel of communication with parents.
2. Involve parents in any decisions which are taken about their children's education.
3. Share experiences and the celebration of children's achievement with parents and keep parents informed of developments within our setting.

We value your role in your child's learning. As parents, you are the prime educator in your child's early years and we hope that you will continue to play a major role in your child's learning when he/she comes to our EYC.

We value the huge contribution made by our parents and look forward to establishing a positive relationship with you. The more information you share with us about your child's interests, the more relevant and valuable we can make your child's experience.

We can also run Triple P – Positive Parenting Program – courses if there is sufficient interest. – please do not hesitate to ask! Triple P leaflets are always available just ask a member of staff when you are dropping your child off if you would like a leaflet.

### **Changes in Circumstances**

It is helpful if you keep the staff informed of anything happening at home that might affect the way your child is feeling, or their behaviour, e.g. the birth of a brother or sister, death of a relative, move of home etc. It will help us support your child in a sympathetic and appropriate way. Anything you tell us will of course be treated with complete confidentiality. Staff can provide story books to read at home on issues such as the above which may help your child come to terms with the change.

### **Parent Fundraising Group**

Our school has a very active PTA who fundraise throughout the year for the school and EYC. Many parents have been, or are currently, PTA committee members and we have received funding for climbing frame equipment, art materials, music lessons and other large projects from the PTA in recent years. If you are interested in joining the PTA committee please speak to a member of staff.

## **Your Views are Important to Us**

We are constantly striving to improve our service and are always interested in the views of children and parents. We may formally ask for your opinions through parent and child questionnaires but we are always delighted to hear what you think about our service. If there is something you feel we could improve upon we would like to hear about it.

All complaints are taken very seriously and a meeting with Depute Head of Centre or Head Teacher or a written response will be made within 2 days of receiving any complaint.

Complaints can also be made to, Greg Bremner (Head of Education), at Southbank House, Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch, G66 1XQ. Tel: 0141-578-8000.

Alternatively complaints can be made to the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland, Compass House, 11 Riverside Drive, Dundee, DD1 4NY. Tel: 0345 600 9527 or [www.scswis.com](http://www.scswis.com)

We are also always delighted to hear if anything we have done has worked well. It really helps us to focus on good practice and ensure that it happens again.



## **Working Together to Promote Positive Behaviour**

It is our policy at Milngavie EYC to promote positive behaviour.

This is achieved by:

- Use of praise and positive reinforcement.
- Encouraging our children to respect other children and adults.
- Encouraging our children to respect the property of others.
- Establishing routines and practices as part of the ELC programme.
- A nurturing attitude to distressed or challenging behaviour

Very occasionally a child has difficulty settling into the routine and this is manifested in inappropriate behaviour.

If this occurs, a member of staff will discuss the issue with the parents and look for a way forward. This may involve asking advice from the child's health visitor or from psychological services. Parents will be involved in the decision making process at every stage as we work together to support the child.

### **The Local Community**

In Milngavie ELC we place a great deal of importance in our children having access to the local community and developing an awareness of citizenship.

Throughout the year we arrange walks in the local area and visit the library, the art gallery, the station, the local shops etc.

### **Links with Local Primary Schools**

We are part of Milngavie Primary School and the children attending will have access to many of the resources available in the school as we aim to encourage our children to feel at ease within a primary school environment.

Leading up to our pre-school children getting ready to move onto Primary 1, our children will have the opportunity to visit the Active Learning Zone and the school playground for liaison visit.

We are very aware of the fact that we have a number of children who will not attend Milngavie Primary School. With parents consent, information about these children will be

passed on to the school they will be attending and their future class teacher. We have had close links in the past with Clober, Craigdhu and St Nicholas Primary Schools.

#### Addresses of other Pre-5 Establishments in Milngavie

Clober ELC  
Clober Primary School  
Kirk Street  
Milngavie  
G62 7PN  
0141 955 2232

Glasgow Academy  
Atholl Campus  
Mugdock Road  
Milngavie  
G62 8NP  
0141 956 3758

Green Forest Nursery  
1 Langbank Holding  
Langbank Farm,  
Dowan Road,  
Milngavie  
0141 956 2300

Lullaby Lane  
Auchenhowie Rd  
Milngavie  
G62 6EJ  
0141 931 5126

St Josephs's Nursery  
North Campbell Avenue  
Milngavie  
G62 7AA  
0141 563 9700

Hillfoot Nursery  
Kilmardinny Estate  
40 Barhill Way  
G61 3DH  
0141 942 0383

Oakburn EYC  
Craigdhu Road  
Milngavie  
G62 7TJ  
0141 955 2210





## **Our Curriculum – A Curriculum for Excellence**

*A Curriculum for Excellence establishes clear values, purposes and principles for education from 3 to 18 in Scotland. It sets out to enable children and young people to develop their capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. (Building the Curriculum 2)*

At Milngavie ELC, we are working at the Early level, which ensures a seamless transition into Primary 1. The emphasis is on active learning, and in our setting this is done through responding to the children's interests and extending their knowledge and skills in contexts, stimulating and exciting.

### **We do this by:**

1. **Careful observations** of our children's play and discussion with both children and parents about children's interests. This allows us to see how children learn and to ensure that their needs and interests are being fulfilled.
2. **Careful planning** to ensure a stimulating environment and clear goals for extending the knowledge and skills of our children. Every area is carefully planned each week to reflect the children's interests and ensure that learning is fun. The children are involved in planning the resources we use and also, more importantly, in choosing what we learn. We use Learning Walls to record the children's ideas and planning and we plan our learning around the children's interests. A wide variety of activities are on offer each day to stimulate and extend learning.
3. **Careful assessment** to ensure our children's needs are being met. As a result of our observations we also plan for our children's individual interests and needs as we assess progress and development throughout the year. Our keyworkers assess each child in their group and liaise with parents and other staff members to gain an overall insight into the child's development and progress. Parents are vitally important to this process and staff are always interested to hear parents' opinion or observations of their child's learning and well-being. Parents are welcome to chat to staff informally at the beginning or end of a session, or if you would like to see your child's keyworker privately, please just ask for an appointment.
4. **Careful recording** of achievements and progress. This is done regularly by your child's keyworker and recorded in their online Learning Journal. Parents have a password to access their child's learning journal at any time. The Learning Journal Site is secure and parents will only have access to their own child's Journal. Parents can contribute to their child's learning journal at home and upload photographs and comments too. Learning Journals provide an opportunity for parents and nursery staff to be aware of their child's interests, learning style and achievements. We believe this holistic

approach will greatly benefit our children and be much more informative and meaningful for parents than our previous reporting of learning. The Learning Journal will be discussed at our Parents' evenings. This Learning Journal is a record of development and progress in nursery and is carried into Primary 1. This ensures that there is continuity in your child's education and achievements can be built upon in Primary 1.

### **Curriculum Talks**

There are 8 areas of the curriculum – Expressive Arts, Health and Well-being, Literacy and Language, Religious and Moral Education, Mathematics, Sciences, Technology and Social Studies. These are all taught in an integrated, cross-curricular manner.

At the Early Level it is essential that we create positive attitudes to life-long learning. Play is our work and it is the way that we learn. In Milngavie EYC we work hard to make sure that learning is as stimulating, progressive and above all, as fun as we can possibly make it!

### **Health and Wellbeing**

- A routine which encourages a sense of security
- Free play allowing interaction with others and development of social skills
- Positive reinforcement of good turn taking and sharing skills and encouragement to respect the needs and feelings of others
- Success in activities, encouraging good self esteem and building confidence
- Energetic, active outdoor play to develop gross motor skills: with regular trips to the school gym, football pitch etc
- Emphasis on healthy eating – healthy snack
- PATHS – Promoting Alternative Thinking Skills- identifying and managing our emotions.

### **Language and Literacy**

- Building vocabulary, learning the structure of language, listening and responding
- Expressing and exchanging ideas and opinions
- Rhythm, rhyme and song
- Literacy and emergent writing skills
- Verbally planning learning through involvement in Big Books.

### **Expressive and Aesthetic Skills**

- Art work – creative exploration of various media and techniques both indoors and outside
- Music and movement – playing, singing and listening.
- Role Play and dressing up, both indoors and outside
- Dance – action songs or responding to music.

## **Mathematics**

- Sorting and matching activities in context throughout the nursery
- Number rhymes and action games
- Number and Shape Puzzles
- Number recognition in all areas of the nursery
- Measurement in the construction area
- Volume in the water tray
- Measure and volume in baking activities
- Encouragement of development of early maths vocabulary and concepts, in all areas of the nursery.
- Introduction of 3D shape vocabulary, in the junk modelling area.
- Practical examples of the everyday uses of maths – counting the children on the register or at the snack table etc
- Computer software on PC and interactive whiteboard to encourage awareness of early maths concepts.

## **Science**

- Encouragement to develop use of senses and observational skills
- Exploration of the natural world around us; exploring the outdoor environment and observing the varieties of plants, animals, minibeasts etc that live in the garden.
- Experiencing weather and its changing seasons. Planting and growing.
- Experiencing concepts, e.g. hard/soft, rough/smooth etc
- Exploring forces – rolling tyres, using magnets etc.
- Exploring the properties of water.

## **Technology**

- CD and iPod
- PC, iPads with a wide range of educational software
- Internet access to investigate topics which interest us
- Interactive whiteboard
- Remote control cars
- Microscopes and binoculars
- Digital cameras and video recorder
- Woodworking tools

## **Social Studies**

Children are encouraged to think about jobs that people do in our society through:

- Dressing up and role play
- Books and stories
- Puzzles
- Action songs and poems

We take children on trips in the local area and encourage involvement in the local community. Children democratically vote on decisions that we make– from what theme they would like on the walls of the toilets, to what we would like to learn about.

## **Religious and Moral Education**

Children are encouraged to share and consider the feelings of others. Rules are discussed and children sometimes choose to write their own. Emphasis is put on fairness and equality for all. Books and stories are used to illustrate these concepts and they are explored by the children in informal group discussion, often at the snack table, or in conversation.

All religions are respected and we raise awareness of the diversity of religions within our ELC community by celebrating Divali, Christmas, Eid, Chinese New Year, Easter etc.

We also celebrate our Scottish cultural heritage through music, dance, poetry and stories in our Scottish week (around St Andrew's Day) and on Burn's Day where we learn a wee Scots poem.

**If you have any questions about our curriculum or the way it is delivered, please speak to our Nursery Teacher Krystal Anderson.**

**Your child's Learning Journey is online and can be accessed by parents and children at any time using your personal password.**

## **Forest Kindergarten**

Forest kindergarten allows children the chance to play in, and explore the natural world with activities such as den making, bug hunting and story telling, in all weathers. The children are involved in assessing the risks of the site and of the things they want to do- we practise our problem solving skills in real situations and gain valuable life skills that are impossible to teach in an indoor setting.

## **Supporting All Children**

Many children experience difficulties at some point during their nursery/ school life, often these difficulties are temporary and are resolved as the child develops.

Some difficulties are related to specific aspects of learning, for example speech and language development. In circumstances such as these, in consultation with parents, we often seek advice and support from external agencies such as speech and language therapists and psychological services.

The nursery runs a Pupil Support Group (PSG) chaired by our Depute Head Teacher/ Depute Head of Centre and the Education Psychologist. These meetings provide a forum for discussion relating to children's learning and development. This may be done in conjunction with other staff members and external agencies. Parents will be informed of any decisions relating to specific actions for their child following such meetings.

If your child required further support, the nursery staff would monitor his/ her progress carefully and ensure that an individual educational programme is in place. You will be consulted about this and asked to work in partnership with us.

Regular reviews of your child's progress will take place and all interested parties will participate in the discussion about the progress being made, the targets to be set and the next steps in your child's learning.

A small proportion of children have long term difficulties which require regular reviews with parents, nursery staff and other professionals in order to monitor progress. This is called a Co-ordinated Support Plan.

It is important that parents, nursery staff and other professional bodies work together to support children's learning. By doing this we are ensuring that each child has the opportunity to achieve his/ her potential.