

Item: 7

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee: 15 November 2023.

Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate.

Inspection of Glaitness Nursery.

Report by Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.

1. Purpose of Report

To advise of findings of the Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate inspections of Glaitness Nursery undertaken in May 2023.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That, in May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Glaitness Nursery to conduct inspections for both Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate.

2.2.

That two key quality indicators from How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare are used for a short model Education Scotland Inspection, with the evaluations for Glaitness Nursery as follows:

- Learning, Teaching and Assessment – good.
- Securing Children’s Progress – good.

2.3.

That four key quality themes from the Care Inspectorate Quality Framework were used in the Care Inspectorate inspection, with the evaluations for Glaitness Nursery as follows:

- How good is our care, play and learning? Good.
- How good is our setting? Good.
- How good is our leadership? Good.
- How good is our staff team? Very Good.

The Committee is invited to scrutinise:

2.4.

The inspection letter in respect of Glaitness Nursery, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, issued by Education Scotland and the Care Inspection on 19 September 2023, together with the next steps outlined in section 5 of this report, in order to obtain assurance.

3. Background

3.1.

In May 2023, a team including Inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate inspected Glaitness Nursery. The Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland use different quality frameworks and inspect against different quality indicators for their inspections. During the week, each team of inspectors undertook quality assurance work using their particular quality document.

3.2.

Education Scotland undertook a short model inspection, inspecting over two days using two quality indicators. The Care Inspectorate undertook a full inspection using five quality indicators, two of which combine to give the overall grade for theme “How Good is Our Care Play and Learning”.

4. Summary of Inspection

4.1.

The Education Scotland inspection team found the following key strengths in the setting’s work.

- The inclusive, nurturing and welcoming ethos which is based on shared values and the nursery vision. Children are confident and safe in their environment.
- Enthusiastic practitioners who work effectively with the manager to improve the life chances and experiences of all children. The manager supports practitioners very well to continue to make improvements to the quality of children’s experiences.
- The successful approaches to teaching children about their local community, plants and wildlife in the natural environment. This makes learning relevant and meaningful for children who are highly observant and benefit from a clear focus on their wellbeing.

4.2.

The evaluations for the Education Scotland Inspection were as follows:

- Learning, Teaching and Assessment – good.
- Securing Children’s Progress – good.

4.3.

The following areas for improvement were identified by Education Scotland and discussed with the manager and a representative from the Education Service:

- Continue to develop approaches to assessment of children's progress to ensure all children make very good progress from what they already know. Develop further the use of data to inform next steps in children's learning.
- Further develop practitioners' questioning approaches. This will help improve further children's play and learning experiences.

4.4.

The Care Inspectorate highlighted a range of strengths including:

- The newly built nursery was welcoming and inviting for children and families.
- Spaces for children to play and relax were well planned, taking account of children's stage of development.
- A nurturing ethos drove forward the care of children and, as a result staff provided children with kindness and respect.
- Children benefited from staff who took the time to know them and their families well.
- Children were involved in leading their own play throughout the day and used the learning environment well.
- Staff demonstrated a good understanding of the different needs of the younger children and planned activities that were meaningful and age appropriate.
- The setting made good use of the local community, which benefited children's learning and experiences.
- The team worked well together and empowered change to benefit the children's experiences.
- Staff were well supported by practice that encouraged their learning and development.

4.5.

The evaluations for the Care Inspectorate Inspection themes were as follows:

- How good is our care, play and learning? Good.
- How good is our setting? Good.
- How good is our leadership? Good.
- How good is our staff team? Very Good.

4.6.

The Care Inspectorate made no requirements or recommendations. The manager and practitioners will continue to develop the setting in line with good practice guidance.

5. Summary and Next Steps

5.1.

Education Scotland were confident that the setting has the capacity to continue to improve and therefore will make no more visits in connection with this inspection.

5.2.

Strengths will be built upon and areas for improvement will be taken forward by the nursery as part of their improvement planning processes. Local Authority officers from the early years team will continue to engage with the manager and practitioners as they develop their practice.

5.3.

The Committee is invited to scrutinise the inspection letter in respect of Glaitness Nursery, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, issued by Education Scotland and the Care Inspection on 19 September 2023, together with the next steps outlined above.

6. Corporate Governance

This report relates to the Council complying with governance and scrutiny and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

7. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendations to this report.

8. Legal Aspects

There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

9. Contact Officers

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10. Appendix

Appendix 1: Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection letter for Glaitness Nursery.

19 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Glaitness Nursery. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the manager/head of setting and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the setting's work.

- The inclusive, nurturing and welcoming ethos which is based on shared values and the nursery vision. Children are confident and safe in their environment.
- Enthusiastic practitioners who work effectively with the manager to improve the life chances and experiences of all children. The manager supports practitioners very well to continue to make improvements to the quality of children's experiences.
- The successful approaches to teaching children about their local community, plants and wildlife in the natural environment. This makes learning relevant and meaningful for children who are highly observant and benefit from a clear focus on their wellbeing.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the manager/head of setting and a representative from Orkney Islands Council

- Continue to develop approaches to assessment of children's progress to ensure all children make very good progress from what they already know. Develop further the use of data to inform next steps in children's learning.
- Further develop practitioners' questioning approaches. This will help improve further children's play and learning experiences.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the setting's work using quality indicators from [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#) Quality indicators help learning and childcare settings, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Glaitness Nursery

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	very good
1.3 Play and learning	good
Key question 2: How good is our setting?	good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	good
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	good
Key question 4: How good is our staff team?	very good
4.3 Staff deployment	very good

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

Areas for improvement made by Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no areas for improvement. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no areas for improvement.

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland.](#)

What happens next?

We are confident that the setting has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Orkney Islands Council will inform parents/carers about the setting's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its setting.

Louise Phillips
HM Inspector

Nicola Creighton
Care Inspector