

## St. Columba's School Day Care of Children

Knockbuckle Road  
Kilmacolm  
PA13 4EQ

Telephone: 01505 872768

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 14 March 2017

**Service provided by:**  
St. Columba's School Limited

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003003586

**Care service number:**  
CS2003016197

## About the service

This service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

St. Columba's School is an Independent School situated in the village of Kilmacolm in Inverclyde. The Early Years Centre is registered to provide early learning and childcare to a maximum of 30 children aged from 3 years to those not yet attending primary school. The centre operates Monday - Friday between 7:45am - 6pm, term-time only. Children can attend on a part-time or full-time basis. There are currently 28 children accessing the service.

Included in the services aims and objectives is to provide a "safe, happy and stimulating environment and to extend children's ability to communicate ideas and feelings in a variety of ways."

## What people told us

On the day of the inspection visit there were 24 children present at the morning session and 12 in the afternoon. We observed children playing independently and in small groups. Staff's approach to the children was nurturing and caring, offering support and encouragement when needed. Children were very confident and were happy to engage with the Inspector. Children told us they liked coming to the nursery and what their favourite activities were. Children's comments included the following:

"I like to draw pictures to take home for my mummy."

"I love playing outside with my friends."

"We have lots of fun and the teachers are nice."

"I like going to the dining hall for my lunch."

"You get to play with lots of toys."

"I am really good at writing my name."

We sent 12 care standard questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents of children who used the centre. Eight were returned before the inspection. We had the opportunity to speak with a further two parents during the inspection process. Both verbal and written comments were positive and confirmed that parents were very happy with the quality of care and learning their child received. Parents praised the staff, outdoor area, activities and resources. Parental comments included:

"We are very impressed with the quality of care our child is offered."

"There is an excellent balance between free play and more structured parts of the day which helps our child settle and develop his listening skills."

"Communication is excellent both day to day verbal communication and written record via online learning journals."

"From day one we were made to feel very welcome and very involved in the education and care of our child."

## Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment document from the service. We were satisfied with the way the service completed this and with the detailed information included under each theme that we grade the service under. The service identified what it thought they did well, some areas for development and any changes it had planned. The service told us how they gathered the views of parents, children and staff to help them make improvements.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

## What the service does well

We found the service provided a very good standard of early learning and childcare which supported children and their families. Their child centred approach meant children were extremely well supported, nurtured and encouraged to achieve their potential in an inclusive environment. Management and staff had developed very positive relationships with children and parents which helped create a welcoming ethos within the centre.

The service had developed very effective procedures to assist the transition from home to early years centre and centre to junior school. For example there was no timescale for the settling in procedure as it was flexible and tailored to the individual needs of the child. Parents completed a wide range of paperwork which provided staff with information about the child prior to them starting at the service. This resulted in staff planning resources and activities which both challenged and interested the children. To further develop the transition process the manager had developed positive links with the local playgroup which she visited to meet the children and share information with staff. Parents were provided with a welcome booklet which offered information about the service and expectations from parents and service. Parents had the opportunity through a survey monkey to share their views on the transition process. Parents who responded "strongly agreed" that their child had been supported through transitions. In preparation for the move from early years centre to junior 1 many systems had been introduced. This included the children attending weekly school assemblies and from Easter spending a morning each week in the Junior 1 class. Children were familiar with the school as they accessed the school library, gym halls and dining room. To help them feel included their artwork was displayed within the school. Children from Junior 5 were Buddies for the children moving to Junior 1. Buddies wrote a letter to the children to introduce themselves. The buddies also visited the children in the early years centre. The manager from the centre also taught in the Junior 1 classes which again provided continuity.

This very good approach to transition which included staff, parents and children in the process helped everyone to feel included, respected, nurtured and safe.

We audited the files of two staff members recently employed and found the recruitment procedure had been completed before the staff members began employment. Checks included Protection of Vulnerable Group Scheme (PVG) membership, references, checking qualifications and Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) registration.

## What the service could do better

There were no significant areas for improvement identified during this inspection visit. Through our discussions with management, we feel they and staff are well placed to make further progress on the areas they had identified in their self assessment.

## 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](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
28 Jan 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
28 Jan 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
9 Feb 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
27 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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