

# Loch Primary School

## Nursery Class



# Curriculum Rationale

## What is a Curriculum Rationale?



A Curriculum Rationale is a position statement, created in conjunction with stakeholders, that sets out the framework for meeting the needs of all learners. It ensures that everyone involved with the nursery can answer the question "what do we want for our children and how will we work together to achieve this?"

This Curriculum Rationale has been developed in consultation with all stakeholders including children, parents/carers and staff. This works alongside our whole school and nursery 'Vision, Values and Aims' as we all work together to ensure our children succeed and reach their full potential within our nurturing environment and beyond.

## Our Nursery



Loch Primary School Nursery Class is a non-denominational establishment situated within Loch Primary School in the Springhall area of Rutherglen. The school and nursery were rebuilt in February 2008 as part of SLC School Modernisation Programme. The Senior Leadership Team consists of a Head Teacher and Principal Teacher. We provide a service for children aged 3-5 years. Currently, 88% of children live within SIMD 1-2.

The school and nursery is situated within the Cathkin Learning Community. We work in partnership with all agencies and extended teams within the Learning Community to meet the needs and provide high quality learning experiences for our children.

We are responsive to children's interests and needs and provide experiences and resources to support our children's development across the curriculum. We promote positive relationships within the nursery and foster an attachment-informed, nurturing ethos which encourages all children to respect themselves and others. All staff ensure we carry out the SLC 'Attachment Pledges' in our daily practice to meet the needs of all children.

## Our Vision



### TEAM LOCH:

Together Everyone Achieves More

Learning Opportunities Create Happiness



## Our Values



Nurturing	Happy	Welcoming
Inclusive	Achieving	Respectful

## Our Aims



We aim to ensure:

- Everyone feels happy, healthy and nurtured within Loch PS and Nursery Class.
- Children are supported and challenged to achieve success across the curriculum and reach their full potential.

Loch Primary School Nursery Class is a nurturing environment. We aim to ensure the 'Six Principles of Nurture' are embedded throughout all aspects of nursery life. It is essential for us to ensure our children feel safe, supported and ready to learn/participate so that they can embrace the curriculum and all of the excellent experiences and opportunities we offer and provide within Loch Primary School Nursery Class and beyond.



# What makes Loch Primary School Nursery Class unique?



## Children's Views

I get excited about nursery because I get to see my friends and go to Forest School.

I like playing outside.

I like Forest Adventures with my friends.

I like when we have parties! They are good!

I like singing!

I like playing in the house and dancing at the C-Touch!

## Parent/Carer Views

Loch is unique in the way they pay attention to the little ones. There is no single day my kids go to nursery school that they don't learn and progress. The most unique thing about Loch is the personal training they teach my kids individually. I am so happy!

Loch is unique to other places because I have experienced two different nurseries with my children and there is much more time, attention and hard work put in with my child here than anywhere else.

Little community! Lots of resources and great outdoor learning.

We feel there has been great improvement from day 1. Staff make the nursery feel more like a home. The activities are great and we can see how our child is so fond of staff and how the staffs' personalities have a positive impact on my child.

Loch has always been my favourite nursery/school. The staff have been very attentive and make sure such a safe and fun environment.

Loch is unique because:

- Positive relationships with staff and children.
- Good resources for children to learn all different subjects.

## Staff Views

Loch Primary School Nursery Class provides a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all.

Loch Primary School Nursery Class has a feeling of belonging for all (staff, children, families and visitors).

All staff create a safe, nurturing, welcoming environment for all families.

We have a fantastic setting with spaces to provide inspiration to develop our children's progress and learning.

The staff, children and parents have great relationships and work together to achieve the best for all.

TEAM LOCH are all in this together and work together to ensure success for all!

## Partner Views

What makes Loch Primary School and Nursery Class unique is their commitment to relationships. As a psychological service, we see how their attachment-informed approach creates a culture where children feel safe, connected, and ready to learn.

(Educational Psychologist)

Loch is unique as it is more than a school and nursery, it's a caring community where everyone is welcomed, supported, and inspired to learn.

(EAL Teacher)

Even as a visiting agency, I always feel welcomed at Loch as part of the family. There's a genuine warmth and sense of belonging that makes the school stand out. It's clear that everyone works together with care and purpose to support the children and the wider community.

(Early Years Specialist Support Teacher)

Loch has a strong commitment to nurture, with warm, caring relationships underpinning every aspect of school life. Pupils feel valued, supported and confident, reflecting the school's deep understanding of the link between wellbeing and achievement.

(Barnardo's Family Support Worker)

# High Quality Learning and Raising Attainment at Loch PS

## Nursery Class



We ensure children are making progress in their learning through:

- Ensuring that children are at the heart of everything we do
- Using attachment-informed practice and embedding the 'Six Principles of Nurture' in the daily life of the nursery
- Regular observations of play, participation and learning
- Tracking progress and participation in Learning Journals
- SLC Tracking and Monitoring running records and spreadsheets (collated three times a year)
- Planning (responsive and intentional)
- Encouraging child-initiated play
- Setting individual targets
- Staged Intervention paperwork
- Promoting Children's Voice through consultation and 'Tiny Talking Team'
- Care Plan reviews
- Partnership working with outside agencies
- Professional dialogue and moderation activities regarding children's progress
- Providing motivating resources which encourage creativity and imagination
- Ensuring progression across the curriculum (using our curriculum trackers)
- Promoting learning beyond the playroom, eg outdoors and in local community
- Encouraging learning through real-life contexts

We celebrate children's success through:

- Positive praise and recognition
- Awards (Head Teacher's Award, Team of the Week, Bucket Filling, stickers etc)
- Learning Journal and Care Plan records
- Sharing good news with parents/carers
- Displaying work and photographs
- Sharing on Facebook/website/newsletters

Parents/carers are involved in the nursery and kept up-to-date on their child's attainment and progress in learning through:

- Parental engagement sessions such as 'Stay and Play', 'Forest Adventures', 'Bookbug' and 'Language Land'
- Target setting with staff and children
- Parents' Evening (twice yearly)
- Report cards and transition events
- Formal and informal chats with staff
- Parent/carer consultations
- ASN meetings and consultation with Staged Intervention paperwork
- Regular sharing of Learning Journals
- Home-school link initiatives such as 'Book of the Month', 'Rhyme of the Month' and 'Maths Missions'
- Creation and review of Care Plans

## Addressing Inequality at Loch Primary School Nursery Class



Our practice is firmly based on inclusion and promoting equity for all children. The Cost of the School Day is at the forefront of our planning at all times and we aim to reduce and remove any financial barriers for our families. We operate an open-door policy, establish positive relationships and we actively encourage parents/carers to approach us if they require any support. We provide all required learning resources/equipment for our children and operate a 'pre-loved' clothing rail that families can use if required. We have positive relationships with the local foodbank and are able to support parents/carers should this be required. We also have strong community links, providing our children with invaluable experiences in the community including at the local library.

We welcome all children and families within our nursery. Resources and displays are multi-cultural and festivals and celebrations from different cultures are celebrated within our nursery to promote inclusion and a happy environment for all.

We actively aim to ensure that "everyone feels happy, healthy and nurtured" and are supported to "reach their full potential". We do this by responding to individual needs, ensuring appropriate interventions and challenge are put in place and promoting positive multi-agency working. We work with a range of outside agencies including Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologist, Early Years Specialist Support Teacher, Health Visitors, EAL Teacher, Social Work and Health Specialists. Together, we ensure all of our children's needs are met.

## Staff Involvement and Development at Loch Primary School Nursery Class



All staff within our nursery are given opportunities to take on leadership roles and develop their leadership skills through leading different initiatives and curricular areas. Leadership roles include 'Literacy Coordinator', 'Numeracy Coordinator', 'Nurture Lead', 'Attachment Ambassador', 'Bookbug Coordinator', 'Language Land Lead', 'Rights Respecting Schools Lead', 'STEM Lead' and 'Forest Adventures Lead'.

Our staff have participated in a wealth of development opportunities to further develop their own skills and knowledge as well as the learning and development of our children. Training has included 'Nurture', 'Attachment', 'Bookbug', 'PEEP', 'Forest Adventures', 'Language Land', 'Froebel', 'Autism Awareness', 'ICT', 'Care Inspectorate', 'STEM' and 'Emotion Coaching'. Individual staff have also achieved accreditation in some of these areas as well as a 'Batchelor of Arts in Childhood Practice'.

## Improving Literacy, Language and Communication at Loch Primary School Nursery Class



Within our nursery, we provide a communication enriched environment for all children through:

- Embedding and promoting Literacy across all areas of the playroom and outdoors.
- Daily storytelling sessions.
- Daily singing and rhyme sessions.
- Effective use of open questions to further develop children's thinking and imagination.
- Home-school link initiatives such as 'Rhyme of the Month', 'Book of the Month', 'Maths Missions' and 'SIMOA'.
- Multi-agency working (including with Health Visitors, Educational Psychologist, Early Years Specialist Support Teacher, EAL Teacher and Speech and Language Therapists).
- Use of visuals to support children.
- Implementing 'Language Land' sessions for identified children.
- 'Nurture Group' sessions in the 'Rainbow Corner' for identified children, focussing on social and emotional development.
- Promoting children's voice through our 'Tiny Talking Team'.
- Promoting teamwork and the outdoors through our 'Forest Adventures' programme.
- Modelling positive interactions.
- Following the SLC Staged Intervention process.

## Promoting Children's Voice at Loch Primary School Nursery Class



Within our nursery, children's needs, interests and voices are listened to and acted upon on a daily basis. Children's voice shapes our practice through:

- Dialogue between staff and children.
- Responsive planning - responding to the children's interests and needs.
- Identifying a 'spark' from observations for planned learning experiences.
- Child consultations to inform next steps in our nursery.
- 'Tiny Talking Team' consultation to gauge children's views and evaluate our practice.
- Children's speech bubbles displayed on wall displays.
- Children included in the creation of their Learning Journals.
- Promoting our 'Rights Respecting Schools' work.
- Observations of children inform our planning and work within the playroom.
- Children are involved in their own target setting.

