



# ELC Handbook

2021-22



# Blackwood Primary ELC Vision Statement



At Blackwood Primary Early Learning & Childcare we strive to establish a caring, nurturing and stimulating environment which encourages creativity and curiosity and recognises each child as an individual, enabling them to attain and achieve.

## ELC Values – F.R.E.D

Our values are central to all aspects of life in our setting. We work together as a team with staff, children and parents and carers to embed these values across all aspects of life in the ELC and the wider community.

<b>Friendship</b>	To build positive relationships with other children and adults within the nursery and school.
<b>Respect</b>	To work together to value everyone in our nursery and the school and become responsible citizens.
<b>Equality</b>	To understand that everyone is equal and should receive the same opportunities and support as required.
<b>Determination</b>	To believe in yourself to be the best that you can even if things are difficult.

## Aims of our ELC

We aim to:

- Provide a safe, supportive and nurturing learning environment which builds resilience and where every child is valued and respected as an individual.
- Create an enabling environment, both indoors and outdoors, which encourages creativity, curiosity and inquiry through the use of real-life and natural resources.
- Deliver a curriculum which offers high quality, open ended and challenging experiences where adults sensitively intervene to support and facilitate children's learning.
- Embed the development of Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing naturally within children's play experiences.
- Build positive partnerships with our parents/carers, other professionals and the wider community to support children in their learning and development.

## **About Our ELC**

Our ELC was established within Blackwood Primary School in August 1998 to cater for children between the ages of three and five years.

During the session 2012/2013 Blackwood Primary School & ELC moved to a new building as part of the South Lanarkshire Council School Modernisation Process. This includes a purpose built playroom and outdoor area.

## **Equal Opportunities Policy**

We are a non-denominational school and welcome children and their families of all religions, faiths and beliefs. We promote a positive self-image to all children and respect their individuality, planning for all children according to their needs, irrespective of their gender, religion, race or ability. We always endeavour to ensure that our resources and books show positive images of people to avoid stereotyping and to help overcome pre-conceived ideas of gender, disability, ethnic origin, culture or religion. We provide a welcoming, inclusive environment which develops positive self-esteem and mutual respect.

## **Capacity and Staffing**

Our ELC has the capacity for 60 children to attend at any given time. This year, as part of the Scottish Government's expansion plan all children are being offered 1140 hours.

Our Full Day session is from 9.00am until 3.00pm (with the option to purchase an additional hour). We have a flexible drop off from 8.45am and collection from 2.45pm.

## Our Staff Team

<b>Head Teacher</b>	Ms Christine McMillan
<b>Depute Head Teacher</b> (ASN responsibility for ELC)	Mrs Jenny Bowman
<b>Principal Teacher</b> (Management Responsibility for ELC)	Miss Vivienne Colquhoun
<b>ELC Teacher</b>	Mrs Carol Strom
<b>Team Leaders</b>	Freda Marshall. Ms Rebecca Morgan ( <i>currently on maternity leave</i> )
<b>Early Years Workers</b>	Miss Emily Biggart Mrs Wendy Bryson ( <i>Mon, Tues. and Wed. (pm)</i> ) Miss Lorna Forbes Mrs Joanne Curley ( <i>Mon, Tues &amp; Wed. (am)</i> ) Miss Kay Jones ( <i>Mon., Tues. &amp; alternate Wed.</i> ) Mrs Jennifer Inglis Ms Arlene McCall ( <i>Thur., Fri. &amp; alternate Wed.</i> ) Mrs Heather Stewart ( <i>Wed. (am), Thur. &amp; Fri.</i> ) Miss Lynzi Morrison
<b>Support Worker</b>	Vacancy

## Admissions

If your child will have their 3rd birthday in the period between 1 March and 28 Feb in the coming year you should complete an application by the end of February. If your child is already three and needs a nursery place you should apply as soon as possible.

You can apply for a funded place in any of the Council's primary school nursery classes and nursery centres and with funded providers and childminders who are in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council to provide funded placements.

To apply for a free childcare place, you should contact your first choice nursery to arrange to complete an application with them. During the current COVID-19 restrictions South Lanarkshire Council are asking you not to visit the nursery itself to complete paperwork.

The closing date for applications is the **last day in February** each year. If you miss the closing date, your application will be held for the 'late application' process which starts in June each year. Late applications may not get their chosen establishment as there may be no spaces remaining, however, South Lanarkshire Council will consider the information provided in your application and allocate where spaces are available.

Please note the last date that South Lanarkshire Council will accept an application for an Early Learning and Childcare place for the current year will be **30 November each year**. Applications received after this date, will be held until our admissions for the following year. You will be required to provide your child's full birth certificate and two proofs of address (no more than 6 months old) to the nursery when enrolling at the start of your child's placement.

All applications for the annual admissions for the start of a new session which are received by the last day in February will be considered at meetings in March and April and parents will be issued letters confirming placements as soon as possible afterwards. South Lanarkshire Council will send an update via the Council's Twitter and Facebook pages to advise when the letters will be sent.

The Head Teacher will keep a register of all applicants and the information contained in the applications will be considered by the admissions panel to assist in the allocation of places. The admissions panel will meet annually to allocate places in line with South Lanarkshire's Admissions Policy. Please note that the length of time a child's name has been on the register will not affect the child's priority for admission. Parent/carers can ask to see their application form at any time. If circumstances change which affect your application, you should inform the Head Teacher in writing.

Children who are not age three before the first intake to Nursery in August, are entitled to start nursery immediately following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday (1<sup>st</sup> Monday after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday). Children who turn age three after 31<sup>st</sup> March will not be able to start nursery until the first intake of the next academic year in August.

## Attendance

If your child is not going to attending nursery for their full 5 day entitlement, please let a member of staff know. In the event that your child is absent we ask that you contact the school office (by phone or email) by 9.30 am. If you have not contacted the school by this time, a member of the support staff will phone you to ask about the absence in line with South Lanarkshire Council's attendance policy and our Duty of Care.

Address	Blackwood Primary School & ELC Carlisle Road Blackwood Lanark ML11 9AT
Telephone	01555 892438
Fax	01555 895877
Website	<a href="http://www.blackwood-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk">www.blackwood-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk</a>
Email	gw14blackwoodoffice@glow.sch.uk

## Arrival and Collection of Children

It is expected that a responsible adult over the age of sixteen will bring a child to and from nursery. Parents/Carers are asked to provide a list of adults who are allowed to collect their child along with a password. In the interests of your child's safety you should make a point of telling the staff if he or she is to be collected by someone not known to the staff. This avoids difficult situations when a child cannot be allowed to leave with an adult who is a stranger to the staff.

## Emergency Contacts

Parents/carers are asked to provide contact details for use in case of an emergency. These emergency contacts must be local (where possible) and must be contactable by telephone. You are also asked to keep the nursery up-to-date with any changes in this information.

## Emergency Closure Arrangements

The nursery will be open during the times already outlined, but on some occasions circumstances arise which may mean that the nursery has to close. Establishments may be affected, for example, by severe weather or power failures. 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, text message, the school website ([www.blackwood-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.blackwood-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)), Twitter, notices in local shops and community centres, announcements in local churches, in the press and local radio and on the South Lanarkshire Council Website ([www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)).

## **Parking**

Please note that parking for parents/carers is situated at the Community Car Park at the rear of the school. Parking for Blue Badge holders is available in the school car park.

## **No Smoking Policy**

Smoking is not permitted within the school building or grounds.

## **Pets**

Animals including dogs are not permitted in the school grounds.

## **Mobile Phones**

As many mobile phones feature a camera, the use of mobile phones is not permitted within the nursery in order to protect children's privacy.

## **Suitable Clothing**

Children often have the best fun when they are doing messy work. We will always try to make sure they wear aprons but accidents may happen so please dress your child in suitable clothes.

Please also make sure that your child has suitable outdoor clothing because outdoor play is a regular part of the nursery day. A change of footwear is required every day. These should be rubber soled gym shoes/trainers.

Although we do not have a compulsory uniform, we do have Blackwood ELC polo-shirts and sweatshirts which can be purchased through our website shop.

It is essential that you put your child's name on all clothing (including jackets) and shoes that are likely to be taken off in the playroom or left on their coat peg.

## **Insurance**

Sometimes children like to bring something special or new to nursery for their friends to see. Parent/carers should ensure however, that valuable items are not left at nursery, particularly as the authority has no insurance to cover the loss of such personal items. Claims submitted are likely to be met only where the authority can be shown to have been negligent.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

### **Care Plans**

In order to support us to meet the needs of the children in our nursery, all children will have their own personal care plan. Your child's keyworker will create this with you and it will be reviewed at least every six months to ensure the information is up-to-date and relevant. The information recorded will include your child's family, emergency contacts, their eating habits and toileting needs, who is able to drop off and collect them and any medical information.

### **GIRFEC – Getting it Right for Every Child**

Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) is a national policy and programme which is implemented in Lanarkshire. The Scottish Government introduced GIRFEC as a long term programme; it is relevant to each and every child in Scotland, and reaches across children's and adults' services in the public and voluntary sectors to ensure there is firm commitment and drive towards achieving better futures for all of our children and young people.

GIRFEC promotes key values in working with children and their families across all agencies and is based on core components which will help bring these values about.

The programme calls for all workers in health centres and hospitals, nurseries, schools and leisure centres, family centres, social work services and housing offices, and in the community to work together towards changes in culture, systems and practice that will help all children and young people to grow, develop and reach their full potential under the eight well-being indicators; safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

Part of the GIRFEC agenda is that all children from birth to the age of 18 are allocated a 'named person'. Your child's Health Visitor will be their named person from the age of 10-14 days until your child attends primary school. As part of the GIRFEC programme in South Lanarkshire you may be asked to confirm the name of your child's named person. Once your child enters primary education the named person is usually the Head Teacher.

### **Child Protection**

As part of the Care and Welfare Policy of SLC we are committed to making sure that children in our setting are cared for and that an environment exists where children feel safe and valued and where all decisions are made in the best interests of the child concerned. Child Protection guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of our children and we have a Child Protection Co-ordinator to whom all concerns should be referred.

**Child Protection Co-ordinator:  
Ms Christine McMillan (Head Teacher)**



## **Health Promotion**

We are a Health Promoting setting. Since our registration in the Health Promoting Nursery Scheme in June 2005 we have achieved our Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Health and Wellbeing is a core area within Curriculum for Excellence.

Throughout the year we promote a healthy lifestyle with various talks, displays and activities for children, parents/carers and staff. We promote oral hygiene by running a tooth brushing programme which involves the children brushing their teeth in nursery on a regular basis. This is an 'opt out' programme and so if you do not wish your child to participate please inform us in writing.

Blackwood Primary School & ELC have a Travel Plan to encourage children to walk to nursery to improve their health and look after the environment. As part of this plan we would encourage nursery parent/carers to walk with their children. If, however, you have to bring your car please park at a safe distance from the school and walk your child round to the nursery. This helps to ensure your child's safety.

## **Snacks and the Promotion of Healthy Eating**

Your child will be offered a snack each morning. Our snack is currently being provided by the South Lanarkshire Catering Service. The snack will consist of either seasonal fruit or salad items each day such as apples, bananas, tangerines, melon, strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers. Water or milk will be offered as a drink. Your child will also have access to water throughout the day.

If your child has an allergy to any foods please advise one of our Team Leaders and we will ensure an appropriate snack is available.

All children attending our ELC setting are entitled to a free school lunch. Please click on the link below to view the nursery lunch menu for this term.

[https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200184/early\\_learning\\_and\\_childcare/1980/nursery\\_20212022\\_lunch\\_menu/3](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200184/early_learning_and_childcare/1980/nursery_20212022_lunch_menu/3)

Children are also able to bring their own packed lunch if they would prefer. Please include an ice pack to ensure their food remains chilled.

We are a 'Nut Free' school so please take care to check the ingredients of the food you provide for your child.

We are often asked about suggestions for what to put in children's packed lunches. Please find below a copy of our leaflet on our website.

## Medical Information

### Medication

If your child is in need of medication during his/her time at nursery you should discuss his/her requirements with the Team Leader. You will be asked to complete a medication form for each item of medication. All medication paperwork will be reviewed with you every 28 days to

If your child has any medical conditions which will impact their health at nursery then these should be discussed with the nursery Team Leader. It is important to let us know if your child has any allergies.

Please note that for children who have had sickness and/or diarrhoea there is a 48-hour exclusion after the last episode of sickness and/or diarrhoea. This is to ensure that the infection is not passed on to other children, thus risking re-infection to your own child. This guidance is given from NHS Lanarkshire.

[http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance\\_on\\_infection\\_control\\_in\\_schools\\_poster.pdf](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in_schools_poster.pdf)

### If Your Child Becomes Ill

If your child becomes ill while at nursery you will be contacted by telephone. If you are unavailable, or do not have a telephone, the child's emergency contact will be phoned and asked to collect the child as soon as possible. **Please keep us up-to-date with any changes to this information.**

### Toileting, Minor Accidents and Upsets

Parent/carers are asked to complete a consent form to confirm whether they wish their child to be changed if they were to have a toileting accident. Parent/carers will be discretely notified if your child has a toileting accident. We have a limited supply of spare clothes and so would therefore kindly ask that parent/carers provide a spare change of clothes in their bag each day.

Minor cuts and grazes etc. will be washed and a dressing (plaster) may be applied. Ice packs will be applied to bumps etc.

### Visits to the Establishment by Medical Staff

From time to time various members of South Lanarkshire Health Board will visit the Nursery e.g. Child Smile who provide fluoride varnish treatment for children, or the orthoptist who conducts the pre-school Visual Screening programme. The visual Screening is an 'opt out' programme and so if you do not wish your child to participate please inform us in writing.

## **Our Curriculum**

Children's learning and development begins in the home and is influenced by the relationships they have with family, friends and the community in which they live. As children grow they develop their identity and interests and begin to understand the world around them. Each child is a unique individual who is keen to learn. Developing secure attachments and positive relationships is essential to support their learning and development. Our curriculum focusses on their holistic development – physical, emotional, cognitive and social.

Much of our nursery day is spent outdoors exploring the natural environment. Our children have the opportunity to explore different areas within the school grounds. Large wooden sheds have been erected to provide further outdoor learning spaces and shelter.

### **The Power of Play**

Children learn best when they learn through play. Play provides the opportunity for children to develop skills, knowledge and relationships and allows them to make sense of the world around them. It provides an opportunity for children to practice their skills and to try new things. During play children explore and experiment and test their ideas.

We offer a broad, balanced and challenging play based curriculum which reflects the children's interests and stage of development.

### **The Curriculum**

Our Curriculum is based on the Curriculum for Excellence 3-18 experiences and outcomes within the following curricular areas:

- Expressive Arts
- Health & Wellbeing
- Languages
- Maths
- Religious and Moral Education
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Technologies

Supporting children to become:

- Successful Learners
- Confident Individuals
- Responsible Citizens
- Effective Contributors

The experiences and outcomes within each area identify the knowledge and skills children will develop as they progress through their education.

Information about what your child is learning can be found in our displays, Parent/Carer Information Board, newsletters and Online Learning Journals. If you would like any additional information on the curriculum please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff.

## **Online Learning Journals**

Online Learning Journals are used to record children's learning and celebrate their achievements. Each child will have their own individual journal which parents/carers can access using a password and pin code. The journals help develop two way communication between home and nursery, with parents/carers being able to post comments and share learning and achievements from home. The children are also share their thoughts about their learning.

## **Assessment**

Assessment is an ongoing process within the nursery. It is usually done through observation, discussion and close monitoring of progression within the eight areas of the curriculum. Assessment, both formal and informal, is vital so that staff know children's ability levels and can match activities to their needs and interests. This allows children to progress according to their abilities and to reach their potential. Each child has their own Online Learning Journal which parents/carers are able to access and contribute to.

## **Supporting Children**

In order to meet the needs of each individual child in our care, we may at times need to work in partnership with other services. These can include our Early Years Specialist Support Teacher, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Audiology and Psychological Services. Parent/carers are asked to sign an Information Sharing Protocol in order to enable us to discuss your child with any of these services.

## Partnership with Parent/carers

As parents/carers we want you to be:

- Welcomed and given an opportunity to be involved in the life of the nursery;
- Fully informed about your child's learning;
- Encouraged to make an active contribution to your child's learning;
- Able to support learning at home;
- Encouraged to express your views and involved in forums and discussions on education related issues.

Some useful information contacts for parent/carers to find out more on education are as follows:

- Parentzone – [www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk](http://www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk)
- Engage Parent Forum – [www.engageforeducation.org](http://www.engageforeducation.org)
- National Parent Forum for Scotland – [www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone)
- South Lanarkshire Council – [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

As you will understand, how we communicate with you at present is very different due to the restrictions place on us by Covid-19. We hope that soon we will be able to return to these ways. However, regardless of the restrictions, staff are always available to talk with you either socially distanced or via phone call if you would like to discuss your child or any concerns you may have.

### Reporting

During your child's time in nursery a profile of their achievements is compiled. Our nursery uses Online Learning Journals which parent/carers are able to access at home and add comments. Parents/Carers are also invited to discuss their child's progress during the year either at our annual parent/carer consultation meetings or when reviewing and setting your child's individual learning targets. This year our meetings will probably be conducted via telephone call. When children are moving on to Primary One, a Nursery transition report is completed in May/June for each child. Both the parent/carers and the feeder primary school receive a copy.

### Website & Newsletter

Our school and nursery website provides a range of information. Newsletters are produced on a regular basis to keep parent/carers up to date with learning and events taking place within the nursery. If you have any questions about the learning that is taking place, please do not hesitate to discuss these with us. Equally, if you feel you could make a contribution to a particular focus please speak to nursery staff.

## **Parent Council**

Our Parent Council meets approximately 6 times a year and is open to parents/carers of children from Nursery through to Primary 7.

The objectives of the Parent Council are:

- To work in partnership with the school to create a school which is inclusive for all parents/carers
- To promote partnership between the school, pupils and parents/carers.
- To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of pupils.
- To identify and represent the view of parents/carers and pupils on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of pupils.

## **Fundraising**

At various times throughout the year the nursery holds fundraising activities. All funds raised are for the benefit of the children and pay for parties and outings, for example. There is no compulsion to take part in any fundraising events, but any sponsor forms issued to parent/carers must be returned even if not filled in.

## **Promoting Positive Relationships and Understanding Distressed Behaviour (PPRUB)**

We understand the importance of establishing and maintaining positive relationships and the impact it can have on behaviours. We recognise and understand that all behaviour is communication and that distressed behaviours are responses to anxiety, confusion, vulnerability and a range of our needs. Our staff are trained in recognising and responding to distressed behaviours. As a school we regularly monitor distressed behaviours and seek to address distressed behaviours for our children. We work with our children, staff, families and external agencies to ensure we are Getting it Right for Every Child.

## **The Wider Community**

### **Our Nursery in the Community**

During the year children make visits to places of interest around Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill to see the changing seasons and to explore the local area. Where possible, visitors from the community such as the local librarian, the postman and the policeman are invited into the nursery to speak to the children and explain their work.

### **Other Services within the Community**

Attached the school is the Community Wing, providing access to a library and gym. There are a variety of Early Years Activities available in the Community Wing, please speak to a member of staff if you require any more information.

### **Transfer to Primary One**

Children normally transfer to Primary School between the ages of four and a half and five and a half. Registration takes place in January of the year the child starts school. The dates for this registration will be given in the local press and information will be displayed on the nursery notice board.

### **Links with Blackwood Primary School**

Most children who attend our nursery class move on to attend Blackwood Primary whose catchment area covers all of Blackwood, Kirkmuirhill and Auchenheath.

Our nursery is an integral part of the school and is included in as many aspects of school life as possible. Nursery children use the gym hall and if possible, are included in performances which take place within the school.

Liaison arrangements allow Primary One teachers to visit the nursery regularly and nursery staff to visit Primary One. Before children move to P1 their Keyworker will discuss their progress and learning with the P1 teacher.

### **Links with Other Primary Schools**

For nursery children who will be commencing primary one at another school in the area we have a range of transition opportunities. Teachers from these schools are invited to the nursery to meet your child and to discuss their progress and learning with their Keyworker. We always try to endeavour to take children to visit their new school where staffing permits.

## Other Information

### Maintaining a Quality Service

We are always keen to maintain and improve our service. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to use our normal processes to engage and consult with parents/carers and so we instead using processes such as questionnaires to gather information.

If you have a complaint about our nursery we would appreciate you letting us know. We will deal with your complaint as promptly as possible, but always within 20 working days. You are not obliged to bring your complaint directly to us, you can take it straight to the Care Inspectorate.

### Self-evaluation

All stakeholders are involved in the evaluation process in the nursery. *How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare?* and the Care Inspectorate's *Quality Framework for the Daycare of Children* are used by staff as part of our self-evaluation process. A variety of approaches are used to consult with parent/carers including questionnaires, evaluations and Parent Council meetings. Consultation with children is an integral part of our practice.



## Useful Addresses

You may wish to be aware of the following names and addresses:

Executive Director	Tony McDaid Educational Resources Council Offices Almada Street Hamilton ML3 0AE [Helpline 01698 454545]
Early Learning and Childcare Lead Locality Officer	Ms Carol Wright Educational Resources Council Offices Almada Street Hamilton ML3 0AE
Care Inspectorate	Princes Gate Castle Street Hamilton ML3 6BU 01698 897800
South Lanarkshire Councillors	Mr George Greenshields Mr Mark Horsham Mr Colin McGavigan
Area Community Education	c/o Lesmahagow High School 1 Milton Lesmahagow ML11 0DL
Public Health Nurses	c/o Glebe Medical Centre Lesmahagow 01555 892328
Integrated Children's Services	Claude Street, Larkhall, ML9 2BU 01698 452501
Speech and Language Department	Lanark Health Centre Lanark 01555 667158

Complaints can be registered at the local Care Inspectorate Office:

Castle Street,  
Hamilton, ML3 6BU  
Telephone: 01698 897800

Although the information contained in this booklet is correct at the time of printing, there could be changes affecting any of the matters dealt with in the document:

- Before the commencement or during the course of the school year in question
- In relation to subsequent school years