



Childcare Inspection Report on

Meithrinfa Hen Ysgol

**The Old School
Chapel Street
Porthmadog
LL49 9DS**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

20/02/2020

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Ratings	What the ratings mean
Excellent	These are services which are committed to ongoing improvement with many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. These services deliver high quality care and support and are able to demonstrate that they make a strong contribution to improving children's well-being
Good	These are services with strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. They consistently exceed basic requirements, delivering positive outcomes for children and actively promote their well-being.
Adequate	These are services where strengths outweigh areas for improvement. They are safe and meet basic requirements but improvements are required to promote well-being and improve outcomes for children.
Poor	These are services where important areas for improvement outweigh strengths and there are significant examples of non-compliance that impact negatively on children's well-being. Where services are poor we will take enforcement action and issue a non-compliance notice

Description of the service

Meithrinfa Hen Ysgol is located in Porthmadog in Gwynedd. The service is registered to provide care for a maximum of 48 children between the ages of 3 months to 11 years. The responsible individual and person in charge is Donna Ojemeyi. The opening hours are Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The service operates through the medium of Welsh and English and is working towards the Welsh Government's Welsh language 'Active Offer'. The service provides the Welsh Government's 30 hour Child care offer.

Summary

Theme	Rating
Well-being	Excellent
Care and Development	Good
Environment	Excellent
Leadership and Management	Good

1. Overall assessment

Children are thriving and having lots of fun learning through play. They are building friendships effectively and developing their independence positively. Care staff have a warm and friendly approach. They plan for activities well and organise interesting and stimulating play experiences for children. The lay out of the nursery is having a significant positive impact on the wellbeing of children. It is clear to see how the re-cycled and sustainable materials are helping children to develop their skills and directing their own play successfully. The people running the service are dedicated and have an innovative vision on how to make improvements. Partnerships with parents / carers and community are positive.

2. Improvements

There have been significant improvements made in working towards becoming an eco-friendly nursery through transforming waste materials into resources of better quality and environmental value. The people running the nursery have worked hard to create natural areas outdoors to attract wildlife. They have a local allotment in the heart of the community where children learn about growing fruit, vegetables and flowers. The people running the service have visited various child care services across the UK to help them develop their ideas and to improve overall experiences for children.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We have advised the responsible individual that improvements are needed in relation to keeping records (regulation 30) and staff files (regulation 28) to fully meet the legal requirements. Notices have not been issued on this occasion, as there was no immediate

or significant impact for children using the service. We expect the responsible individual to take action to rectify these non-compliances and they will be followed up at the next inspection.

We made the following recommendation for children to re-cycle their food waste after meal times.

1. Well-being

Excellent

Summary

Children learn to talk with confidence and many express themselves clearly. They are eager to take part in activities because they feel inspired and motivated. Children are making exceptional progress in the development of a wide range of skills through their play and learning. They are developing their independence well.

Our findings

Children thrive and nearly all talk confidently as they know care staff will respond well. For example, during outdoor play children ask care staff for the equipment to set up the water activity and this is given to them. Children happily tell their friends how they feel by talking excitedly about their role as helper of the day and proudly chat to us about how they use their knife and fork to eat.

Nearly all children cope extremely well with separation from their families because they feel supported and valued. They know the daily routines, for instance, preparing tables ready for lunch time, collecting their waterproof clothing and wellington boots before going outdoors to play. Children feel safe and supported, for example, they enjoy being with care staff as they look through books and practice saying their colours and numbers, there are lots of laughter and smiles together throughout these activities.

Children are kind to each other and build friendships effectively. For example, while playing outdoors a child holds their friends hand to guide them gently across the balancing beam. Children learn to take turns and share very well. For instance, they enjoy sharing the chunky paintbrushes and take turns to dip their brush into the pot of water to mark make. They talk excitedly to each other before they watch a programme about Fireman Sam and all join in happily to sing the theme tune.

Nearly all children have great fun learning through play, taking part in interesting and stimulating activities to develop their curiosity and practice using their senses. For instance, younger children enjoy sitting on the comfy cushions to relax and explore their own reflections using metal toy elephants. When outdoors a child carefully pokes the wind chime with a stick and is thrilled, laughing and smiling, hearing the different sounds it makes.

Older children are developing their physical skills well, actively digging trenches, carrying planks of wood and climbing over re-cycled tyres. They explore a variety of ways to be creative such as making masks for Mardi Gras and swirling foam and shaping sand to make an ice cream cone or when painting with water. Most children develop their

enthusiasm for books and reading well. They enjoy responding to stories and tell care staff which they like the best.

Nearly all children like to start their own play. For example, a child chooses to play with the latch board table and takes their time to consider how each one opens and closes, developing their curiosity and hand and eye co-ordination exceptionally well. Nearly all children are developing their independence positively and are able to explore freely and make choices very confidently.

2. Care and Development

Good

Summary

Care staff understand and implement policies and most procedures well to promote healthy lifestyles, physical activities, personal safety and wellbeing. They plan interesting activities and respond to children's individual needs effectively.

Our findings

Nearly all care staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. For example, they provide children with healthy meals and drinks. They follow good hygiene procedures and make learning about handwashing fun. Care staff encourage outdoor play enthusiastically, developing children's physical skills while being active in the fresh air. Accidents and incident records have been signed by both care staff and parent / carer. However, not all information about immunisations had been obtained. We spoke to the responsible individual about this and she told us she would address the matter.

Nearly all care staff apply the policies and most procedures well, however, procedures for washing hands after nappy changing required amending to follow current guidance. We discussed the matter with the responsible individual who took action to make improvements. Fire safety checks and fire drills are organised at appropriate times and comments are recorded about how they went. Care staff respond appropriately when asked what steps they would take if they had any concerns about a child in their care. Their training in safeguarding and first aid is current.

Care staff have a warm, friendly and welcoming approach and respond to children's individual needs well. They manage interactions fairly and consistently and encourage children to be polite and kind with one another. Care staff provide children with comfort and reassurance when needed. For example, to settle children for sleep they sit alongside them, stroking their foreheads while listening to relaxing music and watching calming pictures of a moon lit sky and stars.

Care staff organise interesting and stimulating activities for children and these are delivered well. They plan for activities effectively and develop children's knowledge about their natural world and wider society positively. For example, making a scented wall display with wild flowers and plants collected from a woodland walk and displaying international greetings, world and local maps attractively to encourage children to take interest in the world around them.

They provide children with ample support to develop their imaginative play, for instance, care staff joined in well when a child invited them to play cowboys. They provide children with opportunities to learn about most aspects of re-cycling and sustainability but there is a lack of opportunity for children to re-cycle their food waste after meal times. Care staff make notes about children's progress well and use these to plan for their next steps in learning effectively.

3. Environment

Excellent

Summary

People running the service make sure the nursery is safe and clean. Play areas are creatively organised. Toys, resources and equipment are of very good quality and enrich children's play experiences and wellbeing.

Our findings

The people running the service make sure the nursery is safe and clean. For example, they have CCTV in operation and a good system to manage access and keep a record of visitors. They complete risk assessments and organise daily health and safety checks. Hygiene practices are effective and cleaning routines consistent. They make sure care staff are aware of their responsibilities in relation to the safety and welfare of children and provide good supervision to ensure children's safety.

The nursery is very welcoming and friendly. The entrance area has a range of information for parents / carers, to keep them informed about what is going on. They make sure children have space to store their personal items. Furniture and equipment are appropriate for children's age and stage of development. This helps to create a good sense of belonging.

The nursery is effectively organised so that it provides a very wide range of exciting play opportunities suitable for all the ages being cared for. There is an innovative vision in place and play areas are developed through using re-cycled and sustainable resources effectively. This is having a considerable positive impact on children's wellbeing as they are able to use these materials freely to develop their design skills and imagination. Toys and equipment are of very good quality and are centred on children's sensory experiences. For example, children's black and white art work showed how they had been experimenting with tone, colour and light effectively.

The indoor and outdoor learning areas are creatively organised, for example, children showed us how they used vinyl records as boards to roll their chocolate scented play dough and played in the sand filled vintage suitcases. Rain water was collected and this was used well to organise interesting activities for children to experiment with motion and volume. Wooden pallets had been used innovatively to divide and create different spaces for children. For instance, one area contained a tactile tiled mosaic table with a range of art materials and another area had been roofed with hessian and fairy lights to create a cosy, comfy corner for children to rest and sleep.

4. Leadership and Management

Good

Summary

The people running the service are dedicated. They have a suitable system to evaluate the service. Resources and care staff are managed well. Partnerships with parents / carers and community are positive.

Our findings

The people running the service have high expectations for making improvements and care staff work well as a team. Care staff tell us they feel supported in their role and enjoy working at the nursery. The people running the service share an up to date statement of purpose with parents / carers, providing an accurate picture of what the service offers. Policies and procedures are in place and these are applied well. They have an innovative vision for the nursery to further focus on environmental improvements through creating more natural areas to develop children's learning through play. The people running the service promote the Welsh language well and are working towards the 'Active Offer'.

The people running the service and care staff know the service well and have a good system in place to collect everyone's views through, providing a suggestion box, talking to children, parents / carers and handing out questionnaires. They have used these well to write a detailed report on the review of quality of care which shows what the service does well and what improvements will be made to improve experiences for children.

The people running the service make sure care staff are suitably qualified and their training is up to date. We inspected two new care staff members' files but not all of the required information had been gathered. Since the inspection the responsible individual has submitted a statement to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) confirming she has addressed the matter. The people running the service make sure care staff receive supervision and appraisal to give them a chance to talk about their own wellbeing, training and professional needs. We inspected two children's individual records but not all relevant information had been gathered. Since the inspection the responsible individual has submitted evidence to CIW that this matter has been dealt with.

The people running the service have strong partnerships with parents / carers and community. Parents / carers tell us their children are happy and settled at the nursery. They say care staff are 'great' because they give them an update on their children's progress through a social media application and talk to them each day to keep them up to date about what is going on. Parents / carers tell us, this helps them to start conversations with their children at home about the activities they have been part of during the day.

The people running the service engage effectively with the community, for instance, children have a variety of opportunities to bake biscuits and make gift parcels as a 'random

act of kindness' for people living in residential care homes and those working in the military. These opportunities are enriching children's experiences to learn and grow positively.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

People running the service should consider:

- Developing children's knowledge by, providing opportunities for children to re-cycle their food waste after meal times.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full-unannounced inspection as part of our schedule of inspections. One Inspector visited the service on Thursday 20 February 2020 from 10:30 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. from 10:56 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

We:

- inspected a sample of documentation, policies, two care staff files and two children's Individual records;
- observed practice and completed observations to capture evidence of children's engagement and the care being provided by care staff;
- inspected the areas used, toys and resources and
- spoke with children, care staff, the responsible individual, deputy manager and a parent / carer.

We,

- provided feedback to the responsible individual and deputy manager over the telephone on Thursday 27 February 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Further information about what we do can be found on our website:

www.careinspectorate.wales

7. About the service

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Responsible Individual	Donna Ojemeyi
Person in charge	Donna Ojemeyi
Registered maximum number of places	48
Age range of children	3 months to 11 years
Opening hours	Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Operating Language of the service	Both Welsh and English.
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	01 February 2018
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	20 February 2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Is early years education for three and four year olds provided at the service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service, which is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service.
Additional Information:	

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