

Fàilte gu Sgoil-àraich Taobh na Pàirce



Fiosrachadh airson Pàrantan
Information for Parents

Fàilte gu Sgoil-àraich Taobh na Pàirce

Sgoil-àraich Taobh na Pàirce
Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce
139 Sràid Bonnington
Fòn: 0131 553 5856

Sgoil-àraich Taobh na Pàirce
Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce
139 Bonnington Road
Tel: 0131 553 5856

A' Phàrant / neach cùraim choir,

Dear Parents/carers,

We are pleased to extend a warm welcome to you and your child to
Sgoil-àraich
Taobh na Pàirce.

This

booklet is designed to give you information about the sgoil àraich and
should be a point of reference which goes some way to answer the
queries which you may have.

It is not intended to replace any personal contact with the nursery
staff - in fact, as you read on, you will discover that such contact is
welcomed and encouraged.

We hope that this will be the beginnings of a fruitful relationship
between home and the school
regarding your child.

Le

gach deagh dhùrachd,

Sgioba na Sgoil-àraich
(The Nursery Staff)

Sgioba Sgoil-àraich The Nursery Team

Head Teacher	Ms	Laura	Stewart
		(a' Bh-uas Stiùbhart)	
Depute Head Teacher		Mrs Karen	Reid
		(a' Bh-uas NicIlleRuaidh)	
Principal Teacher		Miss Nicola MacAulay	
		(a' Bh-uas NicAmhlaigh)	
Early Years Officer		Ms Catriona Nicolson	
		(a' Bh-uas NicNeacail)	
Early Years Practitioner		Mrs Donna Sturrock	
		(a' Bh-uas Sturrock)	
Early Years Practitioner		Ms Cherri Stewart	
		(a' Bh-uas Stiùbhart)	
Early Years Assistant		Ms Mairi Baker	
		(a' Bh-uas Baker)	
Early Years Domestic Assistant		Mrs Sidra Waheed	
		(a' Bh-uas Waheed)	

Nursery Times

Monday to Thursday - 08.45AM-15.15PM

Friday - 08.45AM-12.45PM

Drop off should be made between 08.45AM and 09.00AM. Collection is available between 15.00PM and 15.15PM (12.30PM on Fridays).

Access to the Sgoil-àraich is via the Garden gate, where a member of staff will sign your child in and out.



Sgoil-Àraich Ar n-amasan Our aims

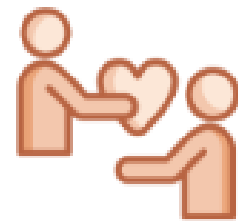


San sgoil-àraich againn tha sinn
ag amas air coibhneas a
shealltainn dhuinn fhìn agus do
dhaoine eile.

In our sgoil-àraich we aim to
show kindness to ourselves and
others.

San sgoil-àraich againn tha
sinn ag amas air urram a
shealltainn do dhaoine,
àiteachan agus rudan.

In our sgoil-àraich we aim to
show respect for people,
places and things.



San sgoil-àraich againn tha sinn ag
amas air ag obair mar
choimhearsnachd.

In our sgoil-àraich we aim to work as
a community.

Day-to-Day Procedures

Arrival

Please make sure your child arrives at nursery on time. Coming in late can feel unsettling for children, especially if the rest of the group is already busy playing. Joining an activity that has already started can make some children feel unsure or intimidated.

Collection Arrangements

We must know who is collecting your child each day. Children can only be released to someone named on the signing-in sheet.

When your child starts at sgoil-àraich, you will be asked to provide a password. Anyone collecting your child who is not known to staff must use this password.

It is very important that children are collected promptly. Please ensure we have your up-to-date contact details, including:

- Home address
- Home and mobile phone numbers
- Work address and phone number (if applicable)
- At least one emergency contact

Emergency contact forms are included in your welcome pack.

Clothing and Outdoor Play

Our garden area can get muddy, so each child should bring:

- Indoor shoes
- A pair of wellies for outdoor play

We provide all-in-one waterproofs, but please also send your child with suitable outdoor clothing, as we use the outdoor area every day. A change of clothes is helpful in case of accidents. Please make sure your child's name is clearly written on all clothing and belongings.

Absence from Nursery

If you know that your child is going to be absent in advance, please let us know by contacting the school office by phone or email.

If your child is ill or cannot attend nursery, please phone the office on the morning of your child's absence to let us know. If your child attends Òganan you will also need to inform them of your child's absence as they are independent of nursery and school.

It is essential that the school knows why your child is not at nursery. If we have not been informed about why your child is absent you will receive a phone call from the school office to enquire about your child's whereabouts.

Settling-in Period

The time taken to settle a child in nursery depends very much on the individual child and their parents. It is very important that the children feel secure in the nursery environment, and we work closely with parents to ensure that children can cope with nursery and all that is involved. Parents are invited to fill in an information sheet about their child e.g. likes and dislikes etc. For some children settling in may take a few days, while for others it may take months before they are able to wave goodbye happily to their parents/carers and participate and enjoy the nursery environment. Thereafter we will gradually extend the separation time according to each child's individual needs. During this period parents will be asked to take their child home after the designated separation time.

Key Worker Groups

You and your child have been allocated a key worker who will work with you during your time at Sgoil-àraich Taobh na Pàirce. The role of your key worker is to build up a special relationship with your child in order to meet their needs effectively. They will observe your child in their play which will enable them to plan appropriate opportunities and experiences that will best meet their needs and interests. Your key worker will help your child to compile their Learning Journey book during their time in sgoil-àraich. Your key worker is also your first point of contact if you wish to discuss your child's progress or if you have any concerns.

Learning Journeys and Care Plans **at Sgoil-àraich Taobh na Pàirce**

During your child's time at Sgoil-àraich Taobh na Pàirce they will compile a care plan for your child which will be kept at nursery and added to by staff. You will be asked to review and update your child's care plan during their time at nursery and are welcome to access it at any time by asking a member of staff.

Children will also have an e-Learning Journal. Each child will work with their key worker to record successes and achievements and discuss next steps in learning with peers, staff and parents.

The nursery staff would like parents to be involved in the e-Learning Journals process and encourage you to add comments and next step suggestions to your child's work. There is also a Learning at Home section for you to share any lovely moments.

Each child's e-Learning Journal is recorded in their own personal online profile, which is only accessible by nursery staff and parents. Children are encouraged to access their e-Learning Journals at home and share them with family and friends. The children become very proud of their journals and are often very keen to show them to their parents/carers. Once signed up, you will receive an email to notify you whenever your child's keyworker adds an observation to your child's profile.

Reporting to Parents

Parents/Teacher Consultation sessions are held during the school year in Terms 2 and 4. These times offer the opportunity for you and your child's key worker to discuss your child's progress. In addition to this, day-to-day informal chats between parents and staff are also important in order to share successes and concerns. Parents are welcome and encouraged to share information and news with staff about their child at the beginning and end of each session.

The City of Edinburgh Council has issued a standard transition report, which will be completed for each pre-school child moving from Nursery to P1. You will receive a copy of this report and a copy will be sent to the P1 teacher.

The Nursery Curriculum

We follow The Curriculum for Excellence Guidelines, which aim to support children's development and learning in:

Health & Wellbeing - Physical education, Mental & Emotional Wellbeing, Food & Health, Social & Physical wellbeing etc.

Literacy & Gàidhlig - Listening & talking, Writing and Reading

Numeracy & Mathematics - Counting, sharing, money, time

Expressive Arts - Art, Drama, Music & Dance

Religious & Moral Education - Religious festivals, moral stories, nursery rules etc.

Sciences - Gardening, Wildlife, The Seasons, Weather etc.

Social Studies - Myself & My family, My school etc.

Technologies - ICT, construction etc.

By carefully observing, listening to and talking to children at play, staff are able to support and extend each child's learning.

Observations are used to plan for the following day and any relevant information is recorded in the children's profiles. At the end of the pre-school year the Early Years Officer completes City of Edinburgh transition records. The profiles are then passed on to each child's Primary 1 teacher.

Planning

Bi-weekly plans take into account children's current interests, recent observations by staff, seasonal and religious festivals, information from parents, and the experiences and outcomes detailed in The Curriculum for Excellence. These plans will be sent out to you by email and also displayed on our planning wall in the cloakroom for parents to add their ideas too.

Biweekly we will also update the 'Íonnsach còmhla' (Learn together) display in the cloakroom so that you can continue to learning at home with your child. It will give details of the Gaelic vocabulary we are working on each week and encourages you to have a go at home.

Learning through Play

Play is extremely important to children's development. It is through play that children come to terms with many of the situations that they encounter in real life. Through play they acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes they will require when they go to school and also in their everyday lives in the community. Each day, carefully structured activities will be offered within the nursery where children have the opportunity to participate in activities which encourage them to develop their physical, intellectual, social, moral, emotional and aesthetic skills. Within the secure atmosphere of the sgoil àraich, each child will be able to engage in individual learning experiences. Their participation in these play-based learning tasks will allow each individual child to gain satisfaction and praise.

Nursery Activities

The nursery offers children a large variety of activities, covering all key aspects of children's development and learning.

The children are free to choose the activities they wish to be involved in for a large part of the day. There are some whole group activities e.g. story time, language games, music time or gym etc. There will also be some small group activities e.g. baking and making dough which are staff directed, but for most of the time the children choose where and what they want to play.

We recognise that children are learning all the time, whether at nursery, at home or in the community. Successful learning takes place in a context, which is meaningful and motivating to the child. Staff will be very sensitive towards the needs and stages of development of each child when they are interacting with the children.

Language

The language of the nursery is Gàidhlig. Sgoil-àraich staff speak Gàidhlig during all nursery activities. The only exceptions to this rule are if a child is very upset and needs to be comforted in English, or if a situation is potentially dangerous and a clear explanation is required. We cater for children from a wide variety of backgrounds. The majority come to nursery with little or no knowledge of Gaelic. Our aim is to provide children who have no Gaelic with a basic oral competence and to reinforce the existing skills of any Gaelic speaking children whose competence in the language may diminish in a predominantly English-speaking environment.

Sharing Home Experiences

To help us build a strong relationship with your child, it's really helpful if you can let us know about any special events happening in their life — for example, a visit from granny, a birthday party, a trip to the zoo, or anything else they've enjoyed.

These moments can be shared on Learning Journals so that sgoil-àraich staff can talk about them with your child in nursery. This helps us make meaningful connections between home and nursery life and supports a positive, trusting relationship.

Snack Time

Snack time is an important part of the nursery day. It supports children's social development as they learn to use good manners, take turns, help their friends, and enjoy chatting together.

Snack also provides valuable learning opportunities. Children develop fine motor skills through spreading, cutting, and using knives, forks, and spoons.

They also practise early maths and language skills by counting pieces of fruit, talking about shapes and colours, and helping to prepare the food.

Snack is a light refreshment, not a full meal. Children are encouraged to taste and try new foods, but they are never forced to eat anything they do not want.

Children help prepare snack in the nursery kitchen. They use real crockery and glasses and are closely supervised when using sharp knives to cut fruit and vegetables.

Each session includes fruit or vegetables, and we aim to offer high-fibre foods and avoid unnecessary additives. On special occasions, such as parties, a small treat may be included. Milk or water is always available to drink.

Please make sure you inform sgoil-àraich staff of any food allergies or dietary requirements.

Lunches

From Monday to Thursday, all children are provided with a two-course hot meal. Lunch is served by our Early Years Domestic Assistant with support from nursery staff. Children are invited to come to the lunch table when they are ready, as we operate a rolling lunch system. This allows children to eat when they feel hungry and join their friends naturally.

Lunch is a sociable and relaxed time. Staff sit with the children, chat about their food, and use the experience as a learning opportunity.

All hot meals are vegetarian. Menus are shared at the beginning of each term.

If your child does not wish to have a hot meal, they are welcome to bring a packed lunch from home. Packed lunches should be placed in the cool box in the cloakroom each morning. Please clearly label all lunch boxes and containers with your child's name. We encourage healthy choices and ask that no nuts or nut-containing products are brought into sgoil-àraich.

Children are encouraged to try new foods, but they will never be forced to eat. Staff will keep you informed about how your child is getting on with their lunch. If your child regularly chooses not to eat their hot meal, staff will discuss alternative options with you, such as providing a packed lunch from home.

After eating, children are encouraged to clear away and wash their own dishes.

On Fridays, sgoil-àraich closes at lunchtime, so no hot meal is provided. Instead, children are given a packed lunch to take home at pick-up time.

Positive Behaviour Management

At nursery, we focus on helping children learn how to behave kindly, safely, and respectfully within the nursery and school environment. Our approach is rooted in positive relationships and gentle guidance.

In line with the rest of the school, staff use positive reinforcement to recognise and encourage good behaviour. We aim to praise children whenever they achieve something special or show thoughtfulness towards others. This helps us build strong habits, high expectations, and a supportive team spirit.

There may be times when children need help understanding that their behaviour is not appropriate. A quiet, calm conversation is usually all that is needed. If the behaviour continues, staff may give a clear warning and, if necessary, offer the child some time away from the activity to help them refocus. This may involve a supportive "time in" with a staff member.

Children are always given clear, step-by-step explanations of what is expected, and they are encouraged to talk about how they can make better choices next time.

At Taobh na Pàirce, we follow a restorative approach. When disagreements occur, staff help children talk through what happened, how they feel, and how they can move forward positively.

Physical intervention is only ever used in the most serious situations, and only to prevent a child from harming themselves or someone else. In these rare cases, a member of the promoted staff team will be called to assist.

We are very proud of the consistently high standard of behaviour shown by our sgoil-àraich children.

Health and Safety

Staff place great importance on keeping the nursery environment safe, clean, and welcoming for all children. Promoting good personal hygiene is part of our daily routine. Children learn when and why they should wash their hands, brush their teeth, and take care of themselves, and these habits are built into our nursery planning.

Several members of the sgoil-àraich team are trained First Aiders, and we also receive visits from the school nurse, dentist, and other health professionals throughout the year.

All staff are fully briefed on what to do in emergency situations, and the school has strong security measures in place to ensure everyone's safety.

If your child is unwell, we ask that you keep them at home. A child who is feeling poorly cannot fully enjoy or participate in nursery activities, and staying at home helps prevent the spread of infection. Children must remain off nursery for **48 hours after any sickness or diarrhoea**.

If your child will be absent, please contact the school office and they will pass the message on to the sgoil-àraich staff.

You will be notified via GroupCall if there are any cases of notifiable contagious illnesses, such as chickenpox, within the sgoil-àraich.

Nursery Tooth Brushing Programme

All sgoil-àraich children are encouraged to take part in our daily tooth brushing programme. This is supervised by nursery staff and supported by the Lothian NHS Trust Community Dental Services.

Each child is given their own toothbrush, which is replaced regularly. We use fluoride toothpaste that meets current Scottish National Guidelines (1450ppm).

Tooth brushing takes place each morning, and children are supervised at all times. Staff ensure that toothbrushes are clearly labelled, washed, and stored hygienically in colour-coded toothbrush holders.

This programme supports good dental health, but it does not replace the need for supervised tooth brushing at home.

If you do not wish your child to take part, please let your key worker know as soon as possible.

Liaison with Primary 1

Throughout the pre-school year the nursery children visit various parts of the school and become familiar with the layout of the building and the members of staff. We attend special assemblies, as well as special whole school gatherings. The nursery also uses the gym hall for P.E. once a week.

In the summer term these visits become more frequent, and the children spend time in the P1 classroom, possibly listening to a story or drawing. The Primary 1 teacher will also receive a copy of each child's transition record and have the opportunity to look at each child's PLP.

Outings

You will be asked to sign a consent form to allow your child to go on outings in the vicinity of the school e.g. to the local shops, farm visits etc. On such occasions the children will be accompanied by a suitable number of adults, which will be made up of sgoil-àraich staff and parent helpers.

Photographs/Video Recordings

You will also be asked to complete a consent form to allow us to display photos/video clips of your child in the nursery, around the school and on our school website.

Clothing

Some nursery activities can be messy. Although we provide aprons, paint and other materials may still get onto children's clothes. Please dress your child in clothing that is comfortable, easy to wash, and suitable for active play.

We encourage children to be as independent as possible, especially when using the toilet, so clothing that is easy for them to unfasten is very helpful.

We ask parents/carers to leave a spare set of clothes at nursery in case of accidents. These should be kept in a **tote bag or backpack** (please avoid drawstring bags) and stored on your child's peg.

If the nursery is warm, or if children are going to the hall for P.E., jumpers and cardigans may be removed. Children also need a jacket or coat for outdoor play — we go outside **every day and in all weathers**, so please ensure they are dressed appropriately.

During the summer months, we recommend sending a sun hat and a lightweight, long-sleeved top to help protect your child from the sun while playing outdoors.

Our nursery garden can get muddy, and children have constant access to water during outdoor play. For this reason, we ask that each child has a pair of wellies kept at nursery. Please label the wellies clearly with your child's name. They will be stored on our wellie tree in the garden.

Library

There are Gaelic books and with online sound files for the children to borrow to read/listen to with their parents at home. These books are available during the pre-school year. You can find the audio file for each book by typing in the number and Gaelic book title on our YouTube account, Sgoil-àraich Taobh na Pàirce:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJdHSXOKcoLFE7twdVaFe3w>

Children are given the opportunity to choose their own book and keep it at home. (Please note that new books are only issued when the previous library pack has been returned to sgoil àraich.)

Due to the time-consuming nature of translating and recording the books we ask that children take good care of our library books. A charge of £5 - £10 will be made if books that are misplaced or lost.

Sun cream

During the summer months staff will apply sun cream to learners who are playing outside. When your child starts at sgoil - araich you will be asked to sign a consent form to allow staff to apply sun cream to your child.

Fàilte gu Sgoil-àraich Taobh na Pàirce!

It is a joy to welcome your child into our sgoil-àraich family. In our caring Gaelic environment, children are encouraged to explore, discover, and express themselves with confidence. We are grateful to share this journey with you and look forward to many happy days of learning and laughter together.

