

Covid-19 Response Grants 2020

Dunblane Nursery

Who are Dunblane Nursery?

The nursery is set within the grounds of Dunblane Primary School and operates within the hours of 8am - 6pm. They offer places for 29 children aged 2-5 years per session and currently have up to 60 children using their service across the week. Children at the nursery are encouraged to learn and develop both indoors and outdoors to reach their full potential.



How was the grant used?

- The grant enabled the purchase of movable, freestanding fence panels for the nursery garden to enable children to remain in their bubble and a large awning to cover a section of the garden outside the patio doors.
- The nursery is also able to offer a choice of alternative outdoor play activities e.g. planting bulbs, which can be enjoyed by groups of children whilst remaining under cover.

What had to change due to Covid-19?

- Currently the children are separated into two cohorts and each learning space has been divided. Some opportunities previously offered within the large indoor area are reduced due to limitation on space to meet the Scottish Government safety requirements for Early Learning and Childcare settings. Smaller groups of children now play together outdoors due to COVID restrictions.



Fencing to separate different bubbles of children during outside play

What difference has the grant made?

- The fence panels have made it possible to section off different areas to accommodate the children attending that day. It also allows the children in the different groups to be out at the same time without over mixing and still be able to see each other.
- The awning has solved many issues caused by Covid-19 restrictions. Previously, parents of new children could visit the nursery, have a look around and help settle them in. However since August parents have had to wait outside in all weathers until their child is settled. The new covering has created a large dry area where parents can stay and observe their child play until they are happy.
- The children can make better use of the outdoor area by being able to have daily access to the garden in all weathers. This is especially important in COVID-19 when they are being encouraged to be outdoors more and gain much needed fresh air.

‘The overall effect on children and staff wellbeing as a result of the grant has been massively positive. It has reduced the stress and complications of the new regulations being brought into effect and it has allowed us to help keep our nursery the stable, nurturing environment that our families have come to expect from us.’

(Principal Early Childhood Educator)

