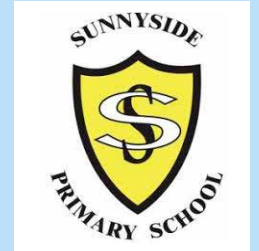


Who are Sunnyside Early Learning Centre (ELC)?

Sunnyside ELC is a class within Sunnyside Primary School, catering for children aged 2- 5 years old. Parents and carers are closely involved in the work of the ELC and their child's learning. Parental engagement is promoted through a variety of events, home visits and excursions.



Sunnyside ELC follows the 'Curriculum for Excellence Early level Experiences and Outcomes' and guidance from 'Realising the Ambition'. In this way, they ensure the children are developing an understanding of the world around them, including skills and knowledge around communication, wellbeing and creativity. An enjoyment of learning is fostered through free flow play which is rich in literacy and numeracy experiences.

How was the grant used?

- The grant has enabled Sunnyside ELC to purchase two portable sinks for the children and staff to use outdoors in the garden. These have been more critical than ever, especially due to Covid-19 restrictions and increased time spent outdoors.
- When the first sink purchased with the Covid-19 grant award arrived, the ELC were so impressed that the head teacher agreed she would add the remaining amount to the grant money allowing them to order another sink.
- Currently 61 children and 15 staff are benefitting from using the sinks.

What had to change due to Covid-19?

- As part of their Covid-19 recovery plan, the children and staff were encouraged to spend as much time outdoors as possible. As a result introducing outdoor hand washing facilities in the garden, allowed the children to wash their hands more frequently, without having to keep going indoors to do so and interrupting their outdoor play.



Nursery children using their new outdoor sink

What difference has the grant made?

- With adequate hand washing facilities in the garden area it reduces the risk of being infected with Covid-19, as the children are regularly washing their hands and not coming inside constantly to do so and mixing with other children outwith their class bubble.
- Sunnyside ELC can now provide opportunities for increased outdoor physical activity, which is showing signs of improving the mental health and wellbeing of the children as well as the wider staff team.

‘Very efficient for outdoor learning. Children can clean and go.’

(Early Learning & Childcare Educator)

‘Our new sink has been a great addition to our outdoor area. The children have had great fun exploring, experimenting and keeping safe by being able to have regular hand washing.’

(Early Learning & Childcare Educator)

‘Helpful for teaching children responsibility for their own hygiene during this pandemic.’

(Early Learning & Childcare Educator)

‘We keep using it because we wash our hands.’

(Pupil)

‘I like washing my hands in the green sink.’

(Pupil)

