

NEWLAITHES NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL – Background Information

“Be happy. Learn. Be proud.”

Location

The school is situated in the Morton area, West of Carlisle. Our catchment area contains a mixture of private and social housing. We are immediate neighbours with Newlaithes Junior School, with whom we maintain good links.

The Building

The school was opened in 1965. There are two classes in each year group. The classrooms are grouped in pairs around the Hall, each pair having a separate entrance and its own toilet block. There is a separate computing suite for 15 children, a kitchen for cookery sessions, a library and break out areas for group work. The grounds include a tarmac play area, a climbing frame known as ‘The Treehouse’, an adventure trail, ‘Quiet Area’ and an all year Multi Use Games Area. The Foundation Stage has a separate fenced area for outdoor play. In September 2017 we opened our own nursery with its own outside area.

The Pupils

Our school capacity is 180. We admit 60 children to each year group and we are regularly oversubscribed. Our nursery has 26 places for each morning and afternoon. We offer 30 hour funded provision.

We have high expectations of our children, academically and socially and we are very proud of them. In December 2022, Ofsted said, "Pupils are happy to attend school. They feel safe and are keen to learn. They are well mannered, courteous and respectful."

We use positive approaches to behaviour management. We have also developed class councils throughout the school. Our Nurture Group supports children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Parents and Carers

The school prides itself on its positive relationships with parents and families. Our open door approach helps us to build effective partnerships.

The Staff Team

Our staff team is friendly and supportive. Teachers and teaching assistants are encouraged to observe each other teach to share good practice. There's always a friendly ear for anyone who needs help or advice.

Organisation and Curriculum

Within each class there is a wide range of ability and staff members structure the classroom work accordingly. A variety of teaching methods is used including whole class teaching, small group teaching and individual work. Throughout the school the staff work closely as a team and share planning ideas and expertise to ensure there is continuity and progression in all areas of the curriculum.

Independent Learning is a major feature of the school which is reflected in the classroom environment, using areas of continuous and enhanced provision to develop skills across the curriculum. Children's planning time takes place within the structured classroom environment when children are given the opportunity to plan time on activities themselves while teacher directed activities focus upon specific groups.

We use Read, Write inc for teaching phonics and Maths No Problem! for our maths lessons.

Professional Development

Our school is committed to providing quality CPD – for all staff. We have a strong history of staff moving on for promotions in other schools. Our teaching assistants receive similar opportunities to our teaching staff.

We work as part of Carlisle Schools' Partnership to enhance teaching and learning. We have taken part in and organised INSET for CSP on several occasions and believe in whole school training whenever possible. We took a strong lead in organising a recent literacy festival for schools in the partnership.

September 2023