

**Doonvale Nursery School
Improvement Plan 2026-2027**



Our Vision

Our vision at Doonvale is to provide high quality early education that lays the foundation for lifelong learning. We ensure all of our children are happy, safe and secure in a fun, stimulating and inclusive learning environment. We foster a welcoming ethos where our families are respected, supported and valued. In partnership with parents, we encourage participation and enjoyment in their child's learning journey. Doonvale places a strong focus on outdoor play where our children engage in high quality experiences, thriving within a rich and natural setting. Children remain at the heart of nursery life.

Our Values

Our Doonvale values are:

Nurture

Integrity

Achievement

Our Aims

Our Doonvale aims are to:

Foster a love of learning.
Nurture happiness and wellbeing.
Promote courage, resilience and integrity.
Embrace diversity, individuality and inclusion.
Develop a love of nature and be guardians of it.
Strive for success and achievement.

Our vision, values and aims were created in collaboration with our children, parents and staff. May 2026

Our Children

We welcome and acknowledge our children's voice and views to help shape our Improvement Plan. They conveyed their favourite places to play, their favourite toys, and what they would like to learn about. Here are some examples.....

"I like the Secret Garden because it is muddy and playing on the Pirate Ship."

"My favourite toys are the building blocks; I can build tall towers."

"I would like to learn about writing and the computer."

"The magnets are the best; they are quite complicated."

"I like dancing, dressing up and jet packs."

South Ayrshire Council Plan

Effective Leadership that promotes fairness
Closing the Gap
Grow well, live well, age well
South Ayrshire works
Stand Up for South Ayrshire
A better place to live

Children's Services Plan

Outstanding universal provision
Tackling Inequalities
Love and support for our Care Experienced young people and young carers
Good physical and mental wellbeing
Promoting Children's Rights

Educational Services Plan and National Improvement Framework Priorities

Placing the human rights of every child and young person at the centre of education
Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing
Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children
Improvement in employability skills and sustained positive school leaver destinations for all young people
Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy

National Improvement Framework- Drivers

School and ELC Leadership
Teacher and practitioner professionalism
Parent/ carer involvement and engagement
Curriculum and assessment
School and ELC Improvement
Performance Information

Our Capacity for Continuous Improvement 2026-2027

Doonvale nursery is committed to delivering high quality care and learning experiences. We have a very strong team who work collaboratively to ensure that we can provide a safe, inspirational and stimulating learning environment. We are delighted to have our Peripatetic Teacher with us one morning a week providing both mentoring and learning for both staff and children. She will be promoting digital lifelong learning skills within the 3-5 playroom, promoting hands-on exploration of technology and problem solving.

We consistently evaluate our practice, identify areas for development and as a team embrace any changes required to improve outcomes for our children. This year we will review the 0-2, and the 2-3 developmental milestones and will create new milestone trackers to ensure robust monitoring in line with the 3-5 playroom. We will continue to develop strategies in which we can ensure parental monthly evaluation feedback, promoting stakeholder presence.

Our biggest asset is our wonderful Doonvale Team and this year we are focussing upon their wellbeing. We have plans to embark upon wellbeing walks, coffee and cake catch ups, team events and charity fundraising. All staff will continue to access in house AZILO training alongside SAC training to expand their skillset in areas such as Leadership, Literacy, Setting the Table, GIRFEC and Outdoor learning.

We strive to embrace a culture of continuous improvement to meet the needs of our children ensuring they have the best possible start in life. We are looking forward to the year ahead with our children in a fun, vibrant and secure place for learning and development.

Our priorities for 2026 – 2027 are;

- Priority 1 – Creating a Curriculum Rationale.
- Priority 2 - Improvement in Literacy phonological attainment.
- Priority 3 – Embedding Children’s Rights and developing creativity and confidence within the Arts.

Priority 1: Placing the human rights of every child and young person at the centre of education, improving attainment and achievement.

NIF Driver: Practitioner Professionalism

QIF: QI Children Play and Learn – Curriculum

QI Leadership – Staff skills, knowledge, values and deployment..

What Outcomes Do We Want To Achieve?	How Will We Achieve This? (Intervention Strategies)	Lead Person	Start and Finish Dates	How Will We Measure Impact On Children and Young People? (Include Where Possible Current Measure and Target)
Enhance practitioner pedagogy and confidence through collaborative design and implementation of a curriculum rationale. Children to receive a relevant, coherent, and inclusive education that builds skills for lifelong learning.	- Hold collaborative professional meetings to co-create the nursery curriculum rationale. - Ensure the views from all playrooms are included. - Audit staff skillsets, gaps, and curricular strengths. - Promote pedagogical practices and theorists. - Review the following: - Vision and Values - Our unique nursery - Our community - Our children and families - National documents - Promote peer mentoring from experienced curriculum leads with colleagues to model interdisciplinary learning and effective lesson design	Nursery Manager V. Lang	August 2026 - July 2027	- Measure growth in practitioner confidence and understanding of curriculum rationale before and after implementation. - Use professional dialogue, collaborative planning, observations, and learning walks to monitor consistency across the nursery. - Use of regular assessment of milestone data to monitor children's understanding and depth of learning. Our data reveals that 89% of pre-school children have achieved the milestone 'I can talk about my learning.' Going forward, we will aim for 95% of our children achieving this milestone

Priority 2:- Improvement in attainment particularly in Literacy
NIF Driver: Parent/carer involvement and engagement.
QIF: QI Children play and learn. Learning, teaching and assessment

What Outcomes Do We Want To Achieve?	How Will We Achieve This? (Intervention Strategies)	Lead Person	Start and Finish Dates	How Will We Measure Impact On Children and Young People? (Include Where Possible Current Measure and Target)
Improve children's literacy skills in particular early phonics.	Secure small group times into the daily routine to promote phonological skills. - Enhance staff skill and knowledge by mentoring circle times. - Create 10 Homelink Literacy Bags with objects and materials promoting family fun literacy play experiences. - Manager and staff to analyse data and use as part of wider tracking to support children's outcomes. Continue to use ECERS to assess our Literacy provision.	Practitioners AF/AH	August 2026 – July 2027	We will measure the impact through parental homelink feedback and the monitoring of our developmental milestone data. Current data reveals that 83% of children achieved the milestone 'I can identify words that start with the same sound.' Going forward we will aim for 90% or more children achieving this milestone. Current measures show that 67% of pre-school children have achieved the milestone "I can recognise letter symbols." Looking forward, we will work towards increasing this milestone to 75%. Evaluate children's level of Literacy engagement by auditing the nursery environment and the resources. Actioning immediate improvements where possible.

Priority 3 : Placing the Human Rights of every child and young person at the centre of education**NIF Driver: Assessment of children's progress****QIF : QI Children thrive and develop in quality spaces .****QI Children are supported to achieve. Wellbeing, inclusion and equality.**

What Outcomes Do We Want To Achieve?	How Will We Achieve This? (Intervention Strategies)	Lead Person	Start and Finish Dates	How Will We Measure Impact On Children and Young People? (Include Where Possible Current Measure and Target)
To secure children's understanding of their rights and embed a confidence to talk about their rights.	Co-create a children's charter making children's rights prominent and visible. Creating a framework that will hold both children and adults accountable. • Discuss and explore rights and agree on which matter most. • Use child-friendly language, symbols, photos and creative artwork. • Expand children's opportunities to use their voice and choice. • Refer to Realising the Ambition: Being Me. • Introduce a Parental HomeLink to incorporate Golden Rules, SHANNARI, UNCRC.	Senior Practitioner AG	August 2026 – July 2027	We will observe and nurture the children's accomplishments during this period by assessing the children termly: • Participation and Voice • Identity and Autonomy • Safety and Boundaries • Respecting Others Current measures show that 100% of pre-school children have achieved the milestone ' I can contribute my views and tell people what I like and dislike.' We will endeavour to maintain this success.
To develop children's self-expression, confidence and creativity.	Encourage and support the children to be free with their artistic talents promoting self-direction and assurance. • Develop the new Art Studio's resources following a children's survey. • Invite local artists and photographers to visit the children.	Practitioner VC	August 2026 – July 2027	Current data reveals that 83% of pre-school children achieved the milestone, 'I have explored the work of different artists and designers.' Going forward we will aim for 90% of children achieving these milestones.