



St David's Early Learning and Childcare - Duty of Candour Report 2022-2023

All health and social care services in Scotland have a duty of candour. This is a legal requirement which means that when things go wrong and mistakes happen, the people affected understand what has happened, receive an apology, and that organisations learn how to improve for the future.

An important part of this duty is that we provide an annual report about the duty of candour in our services. This short report describes how St David's Early Learning and Childcare has operated the duty of candour during the time between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023. We hope you find this report useful.

1. About St David's Early Learning and Childcare

St David's Early Learning and Childcare is a children's daycare service in Midlothian for up to 40 children aged 3-5 at any one time. We provide day care to children from 8.30am – 3.00pm Monday – Thursday and 8.30 - 12.15pm on Friday during the school term. We work closely with St David's RC Primary School. We aim to ensure that we care for children in a way which supports them to grow and develop.

2. How many incidents happened to which the duty of candour applies?

In the last year, there have been no incidents to which the duty of candour applied. These are where types of incident have happened which are unintended or unexpected, and do not relate directly to the natural course of someone's illness or underlying condition

Type of unexpected or unintended incident	Number of times this happened
Someone has died	0
Someone has permanently less bodily, sensory, motor, physiologic or intellectual functions	0
Someone's treatment has increased because of harm	0
The structure of someone's body changes because of harm	0
Someone's life expectancy becomes shorter because of harm	0
Someone's sensory, motor or intellectual functions is impaired for 28 days or more	0
A person needed health treatment in order to prevent them dying	0
A person needing health treatment in order to prevent other injuries	0



3. To what extent did St David's Early Learning and Childcare follow the duty of candour procedure?

When we realise the events listed above have happened, we follow the correct procedure. This means we inform the families impacted, apologise and offer to meet with them. We review what happened and what went wrong to try and learn for the future.

4. Information about our policies and procedures

Where something has happened that triggers the duty of candour, our staff report this to the ELC Setting manager who has responsibility for ensuring that the duty of candour procedure is followed. The Head Teacher, Mrs Gill McPherson, records the incident and reports as necessary to the Care Inspectorate. When an incident has happened, the manager and staff set up a learning review. This allows everyone involved to review what happened and identify changes for the future.

All new staff learn about the duty of candour during their induction process. We know that serious mistakes can be distressing for staff as well as people who use our care service and their families. We have occupational welfare support in place for our staff if they have been affected by a duty of candour incident through our Employee Assistance Programme. Staff can self refer themselves for support at any time.

Where parents or children are affected by the duty of candour, we have arrangements in place to provide welfare support as necessary.

5. What has changed as a result?

We always review and make appropriate changes to our policies and procedures as a result of the duty of candour. We have reviewed the way in which we provide meals and snacks to children to ensure that allergies are known to all staff and that staff are confident about how they can avoid harm arising from them. We also have regular whole staff meetings to discuss any possible learning experience for safety and how we can ensure that we prevent dangers.

6. Other information

Duty of Candour training has helped us to remember that people who use our care service have the right to know when things go wrong, as well as when they go well.

As required, we have this report available for Care Inspectorate to access but in the spirit of openness we have placed it on our website and shared it with our families too (displayed in our ELC Setting information board).

If you would like more information about our ELC Setting, please contact us through the school office by email st-davids.ps@midlothian.gov.uk or by phone 0131 271 4675.