



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY287857

DfES Number:

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	07/02/2005
Inspector Name	Lesley Jane Bott

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Out of School Day Care, Full Day Care
Setting Name	Highclare Woodfield Nursery
Setting Address	Highclare School 241-245 Birmingham Road Sutton Coldfield West Midlands B72 1EA

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Highclare School (1074596) 1074596 528940
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Highclare School (1074596)
Address	Highclare School 10 Sutton Road Birmingham West Midlands B23 6QL

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

### Information about the setting

Highclare Woodfield School was founded in 1932 on the Woodfield site. The school is part of Highclare which covers three separate sites offering care to children from 18 months to 18 years old. The Woodfield site has nursery provision for children 18 months to 3 years and caters for children up to 7 years. They currently have 300 children on roll at this site, with 117 of these being funded 3 and 4 year old children. The early years are housed partly in the main house and several other locations on site which have been developed over the years. Early years have their own enclosed playground as well as nature trails and gardens within the grounds to use.

The school is open for 36 weeks a year during term time from 08.30 to 15.20. The setting currently supports children with special education needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The early years department employs 32 staff of whom 23 hold childcare qualifications, including 10 qualified teachers.

## INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

### How effective is the nursery education?

Highclare Woodfield School offers high quality provision overall which helps children make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is very good. Staff manage the children very well and have good relationships with them, they use excellent strategies to promote good behaviour and consideration to others. They plan a variety of practical activities and understand what children learn from them. They organise the indoor space and resources imaginatively to create an interesting learning environment in which children increase their independence.

Staff give individual children a good level of support and encourage children with special educational needs to participate in the full range of nursery activities. Staff assess children's learning against the stepping stones and early learning goals and use this information to plan what children should do next, although planning needs to be further developed and balanced over the year groups.

The leadership and management is very good. The Head of School is very effective in ensuring that there are good communications between all staff, with regular whole staff group and early years meetings. There is a system in place to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching with appraisals and teaching practices addressed.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Weekly newsletters and daily activity sheets are displayed on parents notice board. Parents evenings are scheduled each term throughout the year with parents receiving a written report at the end of the year. The school offers an open door policy with staff and Head available for parents consultation and coffee afternoons are arranged for informal chats with teachers.

### What is being done well?

- Staff use excellent strategies to promote good behaviour and consideration for others. They give children clear and consistent boundaries and promote positive behaviour through merit certificates and rewards. Their calm and polite manner sets a very good example for children.
- Parents are kept very well informed of their child's progress. There is an extensive range of communication channels which informs parents of forthcoming events and daily activities.
- Staff have a very good understanding of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and use it well to assess, monitor and produce individual education plans for children with special needs.
- The development of children's language is progressing well. They engage easily in conversations with each other and express their needs confidently.

<b>What needs to be improved?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● the effectiveness of planning over the three year groups to ensure it is broad and balanced.</li></ul>



<b>What has improved since the last inspection?</b>
<p>Very good progress has been made since the last inspection. The staff have introduced a number of effective measures to improve the selection of books available to children in the library and encourage parents to take a more active role in sharing information on their child.</p> <p>The school has purchased a large quantity of new books which are situated in the library and all children have access to this and take books out on a regular basis.</p> <p>The kindergarten has introduced an "All about me" booklet which parents are asked to complete on their child, indicating what they are able to do and their likes and dislikes to help their child settle into school easier. This has helped staff to enable them to be more aware of what children are able to do and allows staff to assess where the child is in their learning against the stepping stones.</p>

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children separate easily from their main carer and are confident and happy. They are developing good relationships with other children and staff. Behaviour is good and children respond well to the boundaries set. Merit and reward certificates are given out at assembly. Younger children are encouraged to be independent and to persist with difficult tasks, dressing for physical education and selecting resources themselves.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children enjoy books and listen well to stories in group situations and assembly enjoying the familiar fairy tales and recalling the story, an example of this is the little red hen. Children also have opportunity to listen to talking books during free play. The staff listen to older children read three times a week. Children recognise their names on coat pegs and are beginning to write free hand with well-formed letters.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children show an interest in numbers and count confidently, older children counting up to 100. Older children have a good understanding of numbers and can recognise numbers out of sequence. They extend their awareness of weight and capacity through the use of resources such as sand and water play. Their understanding of numbers is reinforced as they take part in routine tasks such as working out the date. Children sing number songs to reinforce their learning of more or less.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children show an interest in the world around them and have opportunity to investigate, they examine and explore mini beasts and nature trails in the outdoor area millennium garden. They are learning about their own and other cultures through talks from visitors and books. Younger children enjoy making models from boxes and tubes, joining these together in different ways.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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All children are beginning to have a sense of space through physical education, dance and outdoor play sessions. Children learn the importance of hygiene through daily routines and wash hands before eating. Children handle small and large equipment with increasing control enjoying bikes and prams outside at break and using different types of writing materials.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
<p>Children participate in music and dance sessions, using their imagination and distinguishing between slow and fast sounds. Children draw on their experiences and imagination as they play in the playroom dressing up or in role play corner. Children use all their senses to explore and develop their understanding, An example of this is making and eating porridge, celebrating Chinese New Year with food tasting.</p>	

**Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.**

### **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

### **WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT**

*There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:*

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following :
- the effectiveness of planning the topics for the year to ensure they are balanced over time.

*The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.*