



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 260900

DfES Number: 541081

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 15/10/2003  
Inspector Name Carly Louise Thrower

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name St Thomas More Nursery School & After School Club  
Setting Address Park Lane  
Peterborough  
Cambridgeshire  
PE1 5JW

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of St Thomas More Catholic Nursery

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St Thomas More Catholic Nursery  
Address Park Lane  
Peterborough  
Cambridgeshire  
PE1 5JW

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and 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

St Thomas More Catholic Nursery opened in 2001. It operates from a large room next to St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Peterborough. The Nursery mainly caters for the local Catholic community but accepts children from all areas of the city.

There are currently 34 children on roll. This includes 32 funded 3 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently no children on roll with special needs but the nursery supports a high number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week during school term time. Sessions are from 9.00 to 11.30am each weekday morning with extended lunchtime provision from 11.30 to 12.30pm. Afternoon sessions are each weekday from 12.30 to 15.00pm.

Five full-time/part-time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. One staff member is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting receives support from an Early Years pedagogical worker and from early years teachers within the school.

### How good is the Day Care?

St Thomas More Catholic Nursery provides good care for children. Very good use is made of staff, space and other resources which allow children to feel secure and confident in their environment. Staff ensure children's learning is extended and developed through well planned and meaningful activities. They make use of every day practical situations to help children progress in all areas of development. All documentation is very well maintained and organised.

Children demonstrate a warm relationship with staff and enjoy their play. They are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through every day activities and staff

are good role models. Behaviour is very good. Staff present clear behaviour boundaries which children know and respect. Effective use of praise and clear explanations enable children to learn right from wrong. Children are given a variety of healthy and nutritious snacks. However, perishable items from children's lunchboxes are not stored in a cool environment. Children are given individual attention and their needs are met.

Staff provide a stimulating environment both inside and outside the nursery premises. An excellent range of stimulating toys and play equipment, including toys which reflect equal opportunities principles, maintain children's interest and support their learning. Children are given the opportunity to self select and play independently.

Positive, friendly informal relationships exist with all parents. Parents are kept well informed of their child's day and developmental progress and express their satisfaction at the care being offered.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

At the last inspection the group was asked to, agree to report all significant matters to Ofsted as they occur and record all significant incidents in the incident book. The group have incorporated these actions into their procedures.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Premises are clean, bright, warm, well maintained and very welcoming to children. Space is used creatively and children are able to move about freely. The outdoor area is used positively as an extension of indoors. A covered area allows children to play outside even when it is raining.
- The nursery provides an excellent range of stimulating and interesting toys and play equipment. Toys are stored at children's level enabling them to easily self select and play independently.
- The nursery has clear behaviour boundaries which children know and respect. Behaviour is very good and children are happy and play well together. Staff make effective use of praise and clear explanations to help children learn right from wrong.

#### **An aspect of outstanding practice:**

Children have access to an excellent range of toys and resources which enable them to make very good progress in all areas of their development. Learning is constantly extended through well planned and meaningful activities and through conversations with children, helping them to develop their ideas. Staff make use of everyday situations to develop mathematical skills e.g. colour, size, shape and number and ensure children have opportunities to explore and investigate the natural world around them. Children demonstrate a warm relationship with staff and enjoy their play.

**What needs to be improved?**

- storage of perishable items from children's lunchboxes.

**Outcome of the inspection**

Good

**CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION**

*All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.*

*As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.*

**WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?****The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
8	store perishable items in a cool environment.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at St Thomas More Day Nursery is of a high quality. It enables children to make very good progress in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have very good knowledge and a clear understanding of the early learning goals in all areas of learning. This is demonstrated through effective planning. Staff value children's ideas and experiences and make learning interesting and enjoyable. They are very good role models. Staff promote the outdoor area as an extension of indoors and are very positive about using it. Children with English as an additional language receive excellent support.

Staff observe and make detailed records of children's learning in each of the six areas to enable them to set future targets. However these targets for children who need additional support are not reflected in the short term planning of activities.

The leadership and management of the nursery is very good. All staff work well together as a team and are clear in their roles and responsibilities and of the learning intentions for the children. Weekly meetings allow staff to be fully involved in planning for the setting and in assessing their own strengths and weaknesses. Staff are encouraged to put forward their ideas and their input is highly valued by the manager.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are well informed about the nursery's activities and routines through clear and concise handbooks and policies and are encouraged to be part of their child's learning through home book bags. A parents information board is very informative. Parents receive regular updates of their child's progress through termly parents evenings and records of achievements kept in their child's drawer. Staff have developed good relationships with parents and value what they know about their child, especially with those children who have English as an additional language.

### What is being done well?

- Children's physical development is very good. They are able to move confidently and with good control, showing awareness of space and others.
- Opportunities for children to explore and investigate new materials and objects in their environment, through discussion, touch, sight and smell.
- Children have developed very good relationships with adults and others. They are confident, work co-operatively together, learning to share and take turns and their behaviour is very good.
- Support for children with English as a second language.

- Leadership and management is very good. Staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the setting.
- Staff's knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals promotes the children's learning.

**What needs to be improved?**

- written inclusion of targets for children who need additional support in the short term planning of activities.

**What has improved since the last inspection?**

N/A

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children respond positively to all staff and their behaviour is very good. Children work co-operatively together, learning to share and take turns. Children are able to choose activities and select resources for themselves, which they do with interest and enthusiasm. They are learning to take care of their personal needs such as washing their hands and putting their coats on.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident speakers and interact in conversation with adults and others. They enjoy listening to stories and respond well as they anticipate what will happen next. There are good opportunities for children to link sounds to letters and for letter recognition. Children enjoy mark making with a variety of implements in a range of activities.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children show that they understand size and shape through the activities provided and are confident in matching shapes. The children show that they have a good understanding of mathematical language. They observe patterns on materials and recreate patterns in activities such as weaving. Children are able to count to 10 and beyond and to recognise numbers from 1-9. Number songs are used to practice counting and simple subtraction.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are enthusiastic to explore and investigate new objects and materials in their environment, using discussion and their senses. Children's interest in the natural world is stimulated by outside activities such as digging in the garden and growing plants. Children are beginning to have a good sense of time and place. They are able to talk about significant events that have happened and about their feelings.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to move confidently and with good control on a range of large equipment, showing awareness of space and others. Climbing and balancing equipment is used regularly. Children's co-ordination skills in areas such as catching and throwing are developing. They handle a variety of tools such as scissors, rolling pins and cutlery with control and purpose. Children have some knowledge of their own health and bodily awareness.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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The children participate enthusiastically in music sessions, singing simple songs from memory and put actions to music. Children use their voices and instruments to distinguish between loud and soft sounds. Children explore shape, colour and texture through a variety of practical activities and are able to draw freely. They engage in imaginative role play often copying what they have seen from adults e.g. story telling to a group of children.

**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:*

- Point for consideration
- including targets for children who need additional support in the daily focused activities.

*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.*

## **SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS**

### **STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON**

*Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.*

### **STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION**

*The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.*

### **STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY**

*The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.*

### **STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

*The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.*

### **STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT**

*Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.*

### **STANDARD 6 - SAFETY**

*The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.*

### **STANDARD 7 - HEALTH**

*The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.*

### **STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK**

*Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.*

### **STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

*The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.*

### **STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)**

*The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is*

*proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.*

#### **STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR**

*Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.*

#### **STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS**

*The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.*

#### **STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION**

*The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.*

#### **STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION**

*Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.*