

St Thomas Parish Pre-School



St Thomas RC Primary School, South Park, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1EH

Inspection date	8 October 2015
Previous inspection date	23 February 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff work exceptionally well with parents to discuss how they can support children's progression in the nursery and at home.
- Staff provide an extremely welcoming, stimulating and well-organised environment that supports children's learning and development very well.
- Staff use highly effective and innovative practice to promote healthy eating. This means that children are developing an excellent understanding about healthy lifestyles.
- Children form secure attachments with the staff, which help them to feel emotionally secure. Frequent praise and encouragement as children play effectively promotes their confidence and self-esteem.
- The manager maintains well-established partnerships with external agencies and works closely with them to meet children's needs.
- The manager supports staff to further their professional development, ensuring they receive regular supervision and training opportunities. This has a positive impact on children's progression, as staff update their skills, knowledge and understanding.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- strengthen opportunities for children to further develop their high levels of independence.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including policies and children's development records.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and children about pre-school practices.
- The inspector observed both adult-led and child-initiated activities in the indoor and outside spaces.
- The inspector spoke to the pre-school's Special Education Needs Coordinator.

Inspector

Amanda Vidler

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager uses her extensive knowledge of how children learn to ensure that pre-school environment provides positive and highly stimulating experiences. These opportunities enable children to practise and develop skills to prepare for life-long learning. The manager uses highly effective systems to continually evaluate and improve all aspects of the pre-school's practice. She involves parents, children and other professionals in developing actions to sustain the high quality of provision. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an excellent understanding of their responsibilities, relevant procedures and how different situations would be monitored, including who would be informed of any safeguarding concerns.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have an extensive understanding of how children learn and develop across all areas of learning. They provide an inspiring mixture of adult-led and free-play activities, which ensure that children are interested and challenged. Staff are highly skilled; they recognise children's needs and interests exceptionally well. Staff's excellent teaching skills and well-planned experiences enhance children's learning through play. Staff use excellent systems to observe children and make regular assessments. They work closely with families and other professionals to establish next steps in children's learning. Therefore, children are consistently supported in progressing and developing new skills. Children's communication and language development is extremely well promoted. For example, staff use pictures, signs and symbols to support children to develop communication skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff show an excellent understanding of the care needs of individual children and offer appropriate support, such as cuddles, when required. Staff maintain an extremely safe environment. They manage a balance between keeping children safe and offering challenging opportunities exceptionally well. This means that children are comfortable, reassured and develop an awareness of self-care and the needs of others. Staff promote children's independence exceptionally well overall. However, during a planned activity, staff did not provide appropriate resources to fully enable children to take part. Staff consistently use and encourage simple manners and involve the children in developing practices which support skills, such as turn taking. Staff discuss simple rules with children, such as no running indoors. This means that children are aware of the expectations and boundaries in the pre-school; therefore, they behave well.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make significant progress in their learning and development. They develop in line with typical stages for their age group and achieve individual targets exceptionally well. Children are motivated to fully participate in their own learning. They join in an abundance of experiences which help them to develop skills for future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127632
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	825434
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	27
Name of provider	Roman Catholic Diocese of Southwark Diocesan Trust
Date of previous inspection	23 February 2009
Telephone number	01732 779 517

St Thomas Parish Pre-School registered in 1984. It operates from a room within the St Thomas RC Primary School in Sevenoaks, Kent. The pre-school is open each weekday from 8.45am to 11.45am. The pre-school staff support disabled children, children with learning difficulties and children who speak English as an additional language. The pre-school employs six members of staff, five of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education to children aged three and four years.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

