

# Silver Birches Nursery School Ltd

Longsands Lane, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire, PR2 9PS



## Inspection date

29 September 2015

Previous inspection date

29 November 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Inadequate	4
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Inadequate	4

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is inadequate

- Staff to child ratios are not consistently maintained and staff deployment is chaotic. Staff move around various rooms when required. This results in an ineffective key person system and children's needs are not always met.
- Security at the nursery is poor, allowing free and unrestricted entry into the setting. This compromises children's safety.
- Staff do not have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse, so they cannot be sure children are protected and kept safe.
- The quality of teaching is poor. Staff do not effectively plan for children's learning due to their limited knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Activities are poor and lack direction, so children do not make the best possible progress in their learning.
- Assessments of children's progress are not up to date. Children do not have next steps in their development identified, to help them to make good progress and support their readiness for school.
- Managers do not effectively monitor the consistency of practice and teaching and learning throughout the nursery and self-evaluation does not adequately identify areas for improvement.

### It has the following strengths

- Children are developing their understanding of how to be healthy by learning to wash their hands prior to eating.
- Parents spoke positively about the friendly and approachable staff team, which makes them feel welcome at the nursery.

## **What the setting needs to do to improve further**

**The provision is inadequate and Ofsted intends to take enforcement action**

We will issue a Welfare Requirements Notice requiring the provider to:

**Due Date**

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| ■ ensure adult to child ratios are consistently maintained at all times   | 15/10/2015 |
| ■ review staffing arrangements to ensure staff deployment meet's children's individual needs, especially in relation to the key person system | 15/10/2015 |
| ■ ensure the premises are secure so that free and unrestricted entry into the setting is prevented  | 15/10/2015 |
| ■ improve staff's knowledge and understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse, to help to keep children safe and protected               | 15/10/2015 |
| ■ develop systems which effectively monitors the consistency of practice and teaching and learning throughout the nursery                     | 15/10/2015 |

**To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:****Due Date**

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| ■ develop staff's knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage to help them to improve the quality of teaching to ensure children are making the best possible progress in their learning   | 15/10/2015 |
| ■ ensure assessments of children's progress are regularly completed, that the next steps in their development are identified, to help them to make good progress in their learning and development to support their readiness for school   | 15/10/2015 |
| ■ complete an effective risk assessment which identifies risks, especially in relation to the way food is transported at lunchtime   | 15/10/2015 |
| ■ revise the weekly menus to ensure children are provided with healthy and nutritious meals  | 15/10/2015 |
| ■ ensure parents knowledge of their child is taken account of and used to inform assessments of children's learning and development  | 15/10/2015 |
| ■ the registered person must ensure that a sufficient number of persons is present at all times on the relevant premises to ensure the safety and welfare of children for whom the child care is provided. At least one person is the provider, manager, or a person who works for the provider caring for children (compulsory part of the child care register) | 15/10/2015 |
| ■ the registered person must ensure that a sufficient number of  | 15/10/2015 |

persons is present at all times on the relevant premises to ensure the safety and welfare of children for whom the child care is provided. At least one person is the provider, manager, or a person who works for the provider caring for children (voluntary part of the child care register)

- the registered person must train all staff on the written statement of procedures to be followed to safeguard children from abuse or neglect (compulsory part of the child care register) 15/10/2015
- the registered person must ensure that no one can enter the premises without the knowledge of a person who is caring for children on the premises (compulsory part of the child care register) 15/10/2015
- the registered person must ensure that no one can enter the premises without the knowledge of a person who is caring for children on the premises (voluntary part of the child care register) 15/10/2015
- the registered person must ensure that any food and /or drink provided is wholesome and nutritious.(compulsory part of the child care register) 15/10/2015

### Inspection activities

- The inspectors toured the premises and observed the children during their play.
- The inspectors looked at a range of documentation including nursery policies and procedures, records of children's progress, staff files and the nursery's self-evaluation form.
- The inspectors talked to parents who were available on the day of inspection to seek their views.
- The inspectors spoke to the manager and staff about key children, planning, activities and safeguarding.

### Inspector

Ann, Theresa Flynn

## Inspection findings

### **Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate**

Staff do not have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse, which impacts on how children are protected. The leadership team does not effectively monitor the consistency of practice and teaching and learning throughout the nursery. The use of unqualified and temporary staff has a negative impact on the quality of teaching overall. Children with English as an additional language and those with disabilities are not well supported. Management failed to identify any funded children or how funding could impact on closing the gaps in children's learning. Self-evaluation does not adequately identify areas for improvement or take account of parents and children's views. Breaches of requirements, in relation to staffing ratios and security of the premises, results in children's individual needs not being met and their safety being compromised.

### **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is inadequate**

The quality of teaching is poor. Staff do not effectively plan for children's learning due to their limited knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff informed the inspector 'we don't plan we just decide on the day what to do.' Activities are poor and lack direction and the curriculum does not encompass all areas of learning. This results in children not making the best possible progress in their learning, especially in relation to being ready for school. Assessments of children's progress are not regularly completed. Children do not have the next steps in their learning identified, to help them to make the best possible progress. Parents contribute to children's starting points on entry, which helps staff to get to know the children initially. However, parent's knowledge of their child is not always taken account of or used to inform assessments of what children know and can do.

### **Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate**

Relationships between staff and children are not consistently good. This is because staff deployment is chaotic and involves staff moving into various nursery rooms when required, which results in an ineffective key person system. In the baby room staff informed the inspector they did not know about the learning or care needs of all children for whom they were responsible, as a result children's individual needs are not met. Children learn about how to be healthy through activities which include the washing of hands prior to eating, although meals are not always healthy and nutritious. Children receive plenty of opportunities for physical activity in the outdoor area. Staff offer praise to children when they achieve and behave well, which helps in developing their confidence and self-esteem. Children are taught about the similarities and differences between themselves and others which helps them to learn about the wider world.

### **Outcomes for children are inadequate**

Leaders and managers have a poor understanding of the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. The quality of teaching, safeguarding and the key-person system is weak which means that outcomes for children are inadequate.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	503755
<b>Local authority</b>	Lancashire
<b>Inspection number</b>	1028084
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	57 - 41
<b>Total number of places</b>	99
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	57
<b>Name of provider</b>	Silver Birches Nursery School Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	29 November 2013
<b>Telephone number</b>	01772 798 034

Silver Birches Nursery School Ltd was registered in 2001 and is on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. It is in a large, detached property situated in the Fulwood area of Preston and is privately owned and managed. The nursery serves the local area and is accessible to all children. It operates from 10 rooms and the children also have access to two outdoor play areas.

The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff, of these; eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The manager has Early Years Professional Status. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently 57 children on roll, of which; 57 of them are in the early years age group. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds. It supports children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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.

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