

St. Margarets Nursery and Afterschool Club

St. Margarets-at-Cliffe Cp School, Sea Street, St. Margarets-at-Cliffe, Dover, Kent, CT15 6SS



Inspection date	13 November 2015
Previous inspection date	16 December 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children have a wealth of interesting and stimulating resources and activities to choose from throughout the learning environments. Children receive good levels of challenge, are motivated to learn and make good progress in their development.
- Managers and staff have highly consistent expectations, giving children clear praise for sharing and good behaviour. This helps children fully respect and value each other.
- Children develop very close and trusting relationships with their key person and this helps them to settle extremely happily in the welcoming environment. Children demonstrate that they feel very safe and secure, which helps support their emotional well-being exceptionally well.
- Staff become fully involved in children's play, skilfully questioning them during activities to help encourage children to think and experiment.
- The nursery manager and staff regularly work together to review and reflect on practice, enabling them develop and improve outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the most of opportunities to involve parents in evaluating everyday practice of the nursery.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities to consult with parents to involve them more in the self-evaluation process.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas of the nursery and the outdoor learning environment used by the children.
- The inspector observed the children at play and spoke with the children and staff at appropriate times.
- The inspector held meetings with the committee chairperson, the manager and children's key persons during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents during the inspection, including some in relation to children's assessment, policies and procedures, staff qualifications and suitability, and the nursery's evaluation documents.
- The inspector spoke with some parents to take their views of the nursery into consideration.

Inspector

Bernadette Gibbs

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager ensures staff understand how to identify any concerns about children's welfare and that they know how to report concerns to relevant external agencies. The management committee and manager promote safe recruitment, ensuring all staff undergo relevant checks before working with children. The well-qualified manager and staff have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and implement them effectively. There is a strong focus on staff performance. For example, staff benefit from six-weekly meetings, receiving feedback on their performance and how they can develop. Staff regularly attend training to update and increase their knowledge and skills. For instance, recent training has improved teaching of letters and letter sounds, including during small-group circle times.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of children's individual learning needs. They observe and assess children's progress and use this information to plan activities to challenge and extend children's learning experiences. Staff organise the nursery day effectively to provide a good balance of planned activities and those children choose for themselves. Staff include opportunities for children to explore mathematical concepts, such as quantity, in routine activities such as snack time and during role play. For example, children shop for vegetables to make soup and talk about how many of each vegetable they will need for the soup and how many cups they will fill.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Key persons pay meticulous attention to ensuring the children in their care feel very secure and settled. For example, staff are thoroughly prepared for the individual children as they arrive each day; be that being ready for a cuddle or having favourite toys or resources ready and waiting. Parents and staff work extremely well together to share and exchange information each day about children's emerging interests. Children receive very frequent praise for their efforts and attempts to do things for themselves. This helps them to develop very high levels of self-esteem and confidence. Behaviour is excellent. Children willingly share toys and resources, are kind to their friends and have very good manners. They enjoy playing and exploring in the fresh air each day. Fruit and healthy food choices are offered at snack times. Staff involve children in buying food for snack times. For example, children prepare the shopping list and walk to the village shop to buy them.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are motivated to learn and make good progress from their starting points. They learn to manage their personal care and develop skills to prepare them for their next stage of learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127599
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840679
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	44
Name of provider	St Margarets Nursery and After School Club Committee
Date of previous inspection	16 December 2011
Telephone number	01304 853 352

St. Margaret's Nursery and Afterschool Club is committee run and opened in 1992. It operates from a separate building in the grounds of St. Margaret's of Cliffe County Primary School, near Dover, Kent. The nursery is funded to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years old. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 3pm, during term time only. The out of school club operates Monday to Friday from 7.45am to 8.45am and from 3.15pm to 6pm during term time only. The nursery employs 13 members of staff. The manager holds Early Years Professional Status and nine staff hold relevant National Vocational Qualifications at level 3.

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