

Our Lady's Pre-School

Oxford Road, Cowley, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX4 2LF



Inspection date	12 November 2015
Previous inspection date	25 November 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- Leadership and management are ineffective. A lack of monitoring and attention has led to breaches of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, including those relating to the safeguarding of children.
- Regular checks of the premises and equipment are not carried out and this presents a risk to children's safety.
- Children's behaviour is not managed appropriately and this means they are not well prepared for school.
- Staff do not supervise the children effectively. For example, children enter the kitchen area unobserved.
- Supervision arrangements for staff are inadequate; staff have not received the support, training and coaching required to bring about improvements in their practice.
- The manager has not identified weaknesses in teaching and assessment. Children are not taking part in a broad range of stimulating activities that interest them.
- Parents are not provided with regular information about their children's learning and development. They are not sharing information with staff about what children are learning at home.
- Staff do not know the key children they are responsible for well enough to ensure they meet their needs and make good progress.

It has the following strengths

- Pre-school assistants are kind and caring. They provide comfort to children when they are unhappy or have hurt themselves.

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 that all staff have an up to date knowledge of the safeguarding policy and procedures, including what to do if an allegation is made against a member of staff	10/12/2015
■ ensure that staff are provided with effective and regular supervision that provides support, coaching and training to help them improve their knowledge and practice	10/12/2015
■ ensure that the key person system in place is effective so that staff know their key children well and are meeting their individual needs	10/12/2015
■ ensure that staffing arrangements meet the needs of the children in the care of the pre-school and that children are adequately supervised to ensure their safety	10/12/2015
■ ensure that staff manage children’s behaviour appropriately by giving children clear boundaries and explanations as to why their behaviour is not acceptable	10/12/2015
■ ensure that staff conduct regular risk assessments in order to identify hazards and minimise risks to children’s safety.	10/12/2015

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

	Due Date
■ ensure that staff understand the systems in place to observe, assess and plan for children's learning and development, so that observations are meaningful, assessment is accurate and children's next steps are clearly identified and planned for	14/01/2016
■ improve the quality of teaching so that children are occupied in purposeful play and demonstrate the characteristics of effective learning	14/01/2016
■ ensure that parents are effective partners in their children's learning and development by regularly sharing information regarding children's progress and development both in pre-school and at home	14/01/2016
■ ensure that all staff have an up to date knowledge of the safeguarding policy and procedures, including what to do if an allegation is made against a member of staff (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	10/12/2015
■ ensure that risks to children’s safety are minimised (compulsory	10/12/2015

part of the Childcare Register)

- ensure that risks to children's safety are minimised (voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 10/12/2015
- ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner (compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 10/12/2015
- ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner (voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 10/12/2015

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching both inside and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to parents, children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the chairperson of the committee.
- The inspector held meetings with the local authority representative.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents including policies, the attendance registers, staff suitability records and children's profiles.

Inspector

Penny Fisher

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

The manager of the setting has not demonstrated the leadership or knowledge and understanding of the statutory requirements needed to drive improvements in the pre-school. This has led to deterioration in the quality of provision over the last year. Arrangements for safeguarding are ineffective. Staff do not have a sound knowledge and understanding of statutory and other government requirements to protect children. The manager has not evaluated or monitored the provision effectively and this has had a negative impact on children's learning and development, as well as their safety and well-being. Staff are not receiving the support they need to develop their practice and meet the needs of the children in their care. This means children's progress is hindered and they are not well-prepared for starting school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is inadequate

Teaching is inadequate. The lack of well-planned activities based on children's interests and needs means that children spend too much time flitting from one area to another, without engaging in purposeful play and learning. On occasions, such as when children are learning to use the camera or when looking at books, staff interact well with them; this helps to develop children's communication and language skills. Unfortunately, these instances are far too rare. Staff spend too much time trying to manage children's behaviour rather than teaching. However, because staff's strategies are ineffective children are not learning to respect the staff, other children or the pre-school environment. Furthermore, the manager has not ensured that staff understand how to observe and assess children's learning accurately, or identify and plan for their next steps.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

The pre-school is not meeting the statutory requirements for the safeguarding and welfare of children. This is having a significant impact on children's well-being and personal development. Children frequently squabble; push each other; shout across the room to gain the attention of staff and throw and stamp on toys and equipment. Staff do not always provide clear explanations as to why children's behaviour is not acceptable to help children understand the consequences of their actions. At times staff are unaware of what children are doing and this ineffective supervision, alongside a lack of clear boundaries, puts children's safety at risk. For example, children climb on the book case, the outdoor tables and the raised beds unobserved. Children are not learning the social skills they need for when they move on to the next stage in their education.

Outcomes for children are inadequate

Staff are not confident when using the pre-school's systems to measure children's learning and development. This means that recorded information about what children know and can do is not thorough or reliable. Potential gaps in children's learning and their next steps are not clearly understood or identified by staff. Partnerships with parents to share information regarding children's learning are under-developed.

Setting details

Unique reference number	134001
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	1006256
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	38
Name of provider	Our Lady's Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	25 November 2014
Telephone number	01865 749629

Our Lady's Pre-School has been in operation for approximately 30 years and is based in a classroom of Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, in Cowley, Oxford. Children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area. The pre-school is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently 38 children on roll, all of whom are within the early years age range. The pre-school is open each weekday during term time from 8.30am to 11.30am and 12.15pm to 3.15pm. There is a total of six staff, all of whom hold relevant early years qualifications.

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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