

St Marys Church Pre-School

St Mary's Church Hall, 10 Market Road, Plymouth, Devon, PL7 1QW



Inspection date

10 November 2015

Previous inspection date

13 July 2011

| 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

- The highly professional management team has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This has a very positive impact on all aspects of the pre-school and has huge benefits for the families it serves.
- Staff establish extremely close and supportive relationships with parents. Parents speak very highly of the consistent care their children receive, which promotes children's well-being exceptionally well.
- Self-evaluation is effective and a strength of the pre-school, and the manager and staff are highly reflective. They continually refine their teaching skills and approaches to benefit children's learning, striving for excellence in all aspects of their practice.
- The quality of teaching is outstanding. Staff promote children's communication and language skills exceptionally well. For example, children are captivated as staff skilfully read a familiar story. Children join in the familiar rhyming phrases enthusiastically and talk about the different characters, identifying with their feelings.
- Management and staff give a high priority to children's safety and well-being. Risk assessment is meticulous and children are encouraged to think about how to keep themselves safe during play.
- Arrangements for children when they first attend are extremely effective and help children settle very quickly. This includes staff providing a special group for the youngest children to meet them and become confident, and enjoy the activities on offer before joining the older children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the strong commitment to tailor children's learning precisely and consider the style and approach each child prefers to further enhance and motivate them to learn.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching throughout the pre-school and outdoor areas.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team and spoke with children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including staff suitability checks, the self-assessment information and children's records.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day and from written feedback.

Inspector

Margaret Baird

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager and staff implement robust policies effectively to ensure children are safe and secure. They have an excellent understanding of child protection matters and safeguarding is effective. The supervision of staff is strong and there is an outstanding commitment to professional development. Children benefit enormously from the increased expertise following staff training. For example, staff developed a dance programme, which has greatly enhanced children's creative development and confidence. The manager monitors children's learning extremely effectively and promptly supports children who need extra help. There are excellent partnerships with outside agencies, providing an inspirational level of consistent care and support, helping all children to reach their full potential. Children develop a thirst for learning and thrive at this outstanding pre-school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have a strong and insightful understanding of how children learn, and use their expertise consistently to promote children's development. Older children benefit enormously from small group activities aimed at helping them to develop their skills in mathematics and literacy, which are essential for starting school. Management and staff use accurate assessments from detailed observations to plan for children's next steps in learning. They continuously challenge and extend children during activities. Children have access to high-quality experiences across all areas of learning. Staff place a strong emphasis on closely observing children's individual learning styles as they play. However, there are some occasions when they do not use this information to full advantage to enhance opportunities for children's learning even further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are very happy and develop secure emotional attachments to their key person. Staff provide a nurturing and calm environment where children develop a secure sense of belonging. They rapidly develop independence in self-help skills and staff encourage them to learn how to manage their hygiene and personal needs well. Staff provide children with a rich variety of experiences to develop their physical skills outdoors. For example, children enjoy digging and climbing trees, practising their balancing skills and managing their own risk. Staff continually reinforce children's positive behaviour and children demonstrate excellent social skills. Children share resources and show exceptional levels of cooperation, respect and tolerance for others. They learn about cultures and customs from around the world and enjoy outings, which enrich their experiences of their local community.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress from their starting points. They develop the essential skills for moving on to school, and become highly confident and motivated learners.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | 117229 |
| Local authority | Plymouth |
| Inspection number | 825152 |
| Type of provision | Full-time provision |
| Day care type | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Age range of children | 2 - 5 |
| Total number of places | 26 |
| Number of children on roll | 36 |
| Name of provider | Plympton St Mary's Church Pre-School Committee |
| Date of previous inspection | 13 July 2011 |
| Telephone number | 01752 348525 |

St Mary's Church Pre-School registered in 1991. The pre-school is managed by a committee and operates from a church hall in Plympton, near Plymouth, Devon. The pre-school is open from 9am until 3pm, Monday to Friday. A parent and toddler group operates on Wednesdays from 9.15am until 11.15am during the session. The pre-school receives early education funding for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employ 11 staff to work with the children. The manager has Early Years Professional Status, one member of staff holds a level 6 qualification, and most staff are qualified up to level 3.

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