

St Mary's @ The Park

THE PAVILLION, West Park Road, Blackburn, BB2 6DG



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

25 January 2016

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Managers are highly reflective practitioners and passionate about their drive for sustained improvement. They gather a comprehensive range of views from staff, parents, children and other professionals to support their superb self-evaluation. Staff demonstrate a consistent, shared vision for the pursuit of excellence.
- Managers meticulously track the progress of individuals and groups and respond quickly when any gaps in learning are identified.
- Teaching is consistently of a very high quality. Staff inspire children's desire to learn and children are motivated, inquisitive and independent. Staff are exceptionally skilled in supporting them to think for themselves and develop their ideas.
- Staff have a sharp focus on developing children's fundamental skills. Children are extremely well prepared for their next stage in development, including school.
- The key-person system is excellent and children rapidly build confidence. Children form very close relationships with sensitive, caring staff and their individual needs are extremely well met.
- Children's health, welfare and well-being are significantly enhanced by the highly consistent implementation of robust policies, procedures and practice.
- Children's behaviour is superb and relationships with staff are based on mutual respect. Staff have consistently high expectations and clear routines which children respond to with enthusiasm.
- Parents are highly complimentary about the nursery. They comment that staff consistently contribute to children's happiness and excellent progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider further ways to support parents to guide their children to develop exceptional values and attitudes in preparation for moving to school.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and general manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lisa Bolton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Managers have consistently high standards for staff recruitment, vetting and induction. They use a wide range of methods to inform their meticulous evaluation of staff practice. Staff have a wealth of opportunities to learn from the expertise of others and engage in a broad range of focused professional development. Regular staff supervision meetings have a clear focus on children's development and encourage staff to be highly reflective about their own learning. Managers are fully committed to providing comprehensive support for disabled children and those with special educational needs. Exceptional partnerships with parents, schools and other professionals contribute significantly to the effectiveness of meeting children's specific needs. Consideration is now being given to even more ways to involve parents in guiding children's learning. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a first-class understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the action to take if they are concerned about a child.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff demonstrate expert knowledge of how young children learn. They observe children carefully and are very intuitive, knowing when and how to best support children's learning during their play. Staff ask children a range of ambitious questions and allow them sufficient time to think about different answers. Children are thoroughly challenged through a highly effective balance of adult-led and child-initiated experiences. They learn to count, compare and recognise their names frequently during their play. Staff use a range of highly successful strategies to help children who speak English as an additional language to make excellent progress. Staff plan for experiences based on their assessment of children and their acute knowledge of their interests and ways of learning. Assessments are effectively shared with staff, parents and other professionals and children make rapid progress from their starting points.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff provide a highly stimulating and well-planned environment, indoors and outside. They regularly monitor children's well-being and involvement to inform their planning. Children show high levels of engagement and demonstrate curiosity and imagination. They are highly independent and are motivated in self-care tasks, such as washing their hands. Staff have an extremely strong focus on educating children and their families about the importance of healthy lifestyles. Robust messages are communicated through experiences, resources, displays and specific projects. Pre-school children confidently distinguish between healthy and unhealthy foods. Snack time is a very positive learning experience and staff consistently help children to develop good habits. Children are highly active outdoors from an early age and staff continually support them to enjoy and value physical exercise.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Partnerships with parents and other professionals are dynamic and contribute significantly to children's excellent progress. Over time, disabled children and those with special educational needs make exceptional progress from their starting points.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY477322
Local authority	Blackburn
Inspection number	976794
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	31
Number of children on roll	52
Name of provider	St. Mary's College Governing Body
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01254 586996

St Mary's @ The Park was registered in 2014. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one with Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9am until 12 noon and 1pm until 4pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports disabled children and those with special educational needs. The nursery provides education for children who speak English as an additional language.

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