

St Nicholas Pre-School

St Nicholas Church, Broadway, Bournemouth, BH6 4EP



Inspection date	10 February 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are happy and settled. They have positive relationships with the staff, which helps to foster a strong sense of security and emotional well-being.
- Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding issues and what to do in the event of a concern about a child's well-being. They are clear of their responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment for children.
- Children make good progress. Staff know children well and regularly assess and plan for their individual development.
- Staff work closely with parents and other agencies. The ongoing sharing of information helps to provide continuity for children's care and learning.
- The management and staff have a positive attitude to the continual development of the provision. They provide a relaxed, fun and welcoming environment where each child is respected and valued.
- Staff interact positively with the children. They support children's communication and language skills effectively, teaching new words to help extend their vocabulary.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Managers do not take every opportunity to monitor staff's assessment of children's progress and staff practice generally to ensure even greater consistency.
- Children do not always have enough opportunities to use all areas of the environment and resources to extend their play experiences and all-round development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen methods for monitoring and developing assessment and teaching practice to ensure more consistency
- extend use of all areas of the play environment and resources to enhance children's all-round development more effectively.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play and staff interaction, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the provider.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including a sample of children's developmental records, planning and staff suitability records.
- The inspector talked with the provider, staff and some parents.
- The inspector looked at and discussed the systems used to review and evaluate the pre-school.

Inspector

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Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Managers use thorough recruitment arrangements to ensure staff suitability. The well-qualified staff are clear of their roles and responsibilities. Staff work together well to ensure that children receive good care and support. They constantly observe children's play and plan activities to help children to move on in their development. The management and staff have a clear drive for improvement and continually reflect on the success of the play activities. This helps them to identify how they can improve outcomes for children. For example, they adapt the play activities and resources to suit the differing needs of the younger children. Parents receive regular updates on their children's progress. They comment positively about the settling-in procedures when children first start and how they feel well informed about the provision.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide a good range of stimulating play activities and experiences that challenge children's individual capabilities. For example, the staff make up interesting number games to skilfully challenge children's thinking. The children have fun working out how to place the numbers in the correct order. Children are excited and thoroughly engaged in discussions about the different pets brought in to the pre-school for pet week. Children use their imaginations well. For example, they enjoy playing with their friends in the pretend animal hospital, acting out various roles to help make their toy pets better. They use the various equipment, such as writing resources, to make appointments, which helps to develop their early literacy skills. Children understand how things work and confidently operate the computer and programmable toys.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff work supportively with families to find out about children's individual needs and help children settle quickly. Their warm and caring manner helps the children to form strong attachments. Children move around the play space with confidence as they make choices about their play. They show developing independence as they learn to manage their self-care skills. For instance, children help to cut the fruit and butter their toast at snack time. Children behave well. They cooperate with each other and understand the need to share and take turns. For example, as they join in the ball game outdoors they happily wait to have their turn to kick the ball. Staff have a good understanding of their responsibility to follow safe working practices to support children's health and safety.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and development. They learn key skills to help to prepare them for the future, and their move on to school. Staff offer sensitive support to help children to think and develop their problem-solving skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY481145
Local authority	Bournemouth
Inspection number	990839
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	54
Name of provider	Wendy Catherine Ormesher
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	St Nicholas Pre-School

St Nicholas Pre-School registered under new ownership in 2014. It operates from the church hall in St Nicholas Church, in Southbourne, Dorset. The pre-school operates every weekday morning from 9am to 12 noon during term time only. On Wednesday there is an additional afternoon session from 1pm to 3.30pm, and on Thursday an afternoon session runs from 1pm to 4pm. The pre-school is in receipt of government funding for free nursery education for children aged two, three and four years. A team of six staff, including the proprietor, work with the children. Five of the staff hold early years qualifications from level 3 to level 6. The other staff member is currently undertaking a training qualification.

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