

Ditton Church Pre-School

Ditton Church Centre, New Road, Ditton, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 6AE



Inspection date

23 February 2016

Previous inspection date

10 June 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 manager provides an inspirational role model to the staff team. She supports staff highly effectively. For example, the manager identifies and tailors training to meet the needs of staff and children extremely well. Staff use information from training exceptionally well to extend children's high quality experiences even further.
- Self-evaluation is highly effective. The manager seeks the views of parents, children and committee members to identify and shape future improvements. The manager and staff maintain an excellent knowledge of current early years practice.
- The quality of teaching is exceptional. Staff have an excellent understanding of each child's individual learning needs. They use this knowledge to plan for children's next steps in learning exceptionally well. All children make rapid progress from their starting points and are extremely well prepared for the next stage in their learning.
- Excellent partnerships with parents and other early years settings children attend promote high levels of continuity and consistency in meeting children's needs. For example, staff communicate and share information highly effectively with all parents and other settings to provide an exemplary shared approach to supporting children.
- Children develop excellent relationships with each other and staff. Key persons are extremely caring, highly sensitive and considerate of children's and families' needs, to meet these very successfully. Children's well-being is exceptionally high.
- Staff are highly effective in building on children's interests to extend their learning. For example, children are extremely motivated and engaged as they investigate toys frozen in ice.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- implement plans to support staff to extend their already high level of knowledge and skills even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector had discussions with the staff, children and parents.
- The inspector and manager completed a joint observation together.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's records and safeguarding procedures.

Inspector
Karen Scott

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Children's safety and welfare are given the highest priority. Staff have a comprehensive understanding of their role in safeguarding children. There is an exceptional drive towards improvement. For example, the manager observes staff and very successfully identifies improvements to their practice to build on the high quality provision. The manager has identified ways to improve this further, such as providing opportunities for staff to observe each other's practice and share their skills. Individual and groups of children's progress is tracked highly effectively to identify any gaps in their achievements to promptly address these. The manager and staff robustly evaluate the activities they provide and children's needs to provide high quality experiences for children. For example, they critically reviewed the outdoor environment and made improvements to provide excellent learning opportunities that support all children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have very high aspirations for all the children that they care for. They are extremely committed to providing play opportunities that meet the learning needs of individual children. Staff are highly dedicated and have an excellent understanding of how children learn; they provide exceptional support to children. For example, staff use signing and resources to extend children's understanding of words to help them follow instructions and participate in conversations. Children are highly independent learners who take charge of their play. For example, they independently sharpen pencils and help themselves to scissors when creating their own designs.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children show exceptionally high levels of concentration at activities. Staff encourage children to undertake difficult tasks and they respond enthusiastically to challenges. Children's ideas and views are valued highly. For example, when reviewing snack time arrangements, children decided that they preferred to have snack all at the same time to sit together socially. Staff use additional funding to tailor support to children's needs exceptionally well. For example, they bought books about behaviour to help children develop an excellent understanding of being kind to others. Children's behaviour is exemplary. They take turns, share toys and play cooperatively. Links with children in other countries help children to develop an excellent understanding of the wider world.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress, including those who are most able and those who have special educational needs. Children develop excellent independence and are highly motivated to explore and investigate their ideas to extend their own learning. For example, children independently found a magnifying glass to study a worm more closely.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127147
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840619
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	53
Name of provider	Ditton Church Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	10 June 2011
Telephone number	07845 921 621

Ditton Church Pre-School registered in 2001. It operates from Ditton Church Centre in Ditton, on the outskirts of Maidstone, Kent. The pre-school operates Monday to Friday from 9am to 12 noon, during term time. An extended day is offered on Monday and Thursday to 3.30pm, and an afternoon session is offered on Tuesday afternoons from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are nine members of staff, who all hold recognised early years qualifications. One member of staff has Qualified Teacher Status.

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