

St Martins Pre school

St. Martins Church Hall, Northumberland Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 7LP



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| Inspection date | 23 May 2016 |
| Previous inspection date | 31 January 2013 |

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Good | 2 |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|----------|
| | Previous inspection: | Satisfactory | 3 |
| 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 enjoy learning in a well-organised learning environment. They have access to a wide range of resources and equipment, and children confidently make their own choices during activities and play.
- Staff gather useful information from parents about their children when they start at the pre-school, to enable them to meet children's care and learning needs effectively. They form strong bonds with children, which helps all children to feel secure and supports their emotional well-being.
- The manager and staff make good use of observations and assessments to identify children's next steps in learning and plan activities which motivate them to learn. Children make good progress as they enjoy a wide variety of activities that reflect their interests and individual learning needs.
- The manager is clear about her role in safeguarding children and is secure in her knowledge of the action to take, and who to contact, should she or her staff have any concerns regarding children's welfare.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always extend fully all activities children engage with, to broaden their knowledge and understanding of how things work.
- Children do not always have sufficient resources and opportunities to practise writing and mark making in their daily routines and play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to support staff to improve their skills and knowledge, to enable them to extend children's learning further
- provide more opportunities for children to practise drawing, writing and painting to prepare them for learning to write.

Inspection activities

- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including children's records, planning, safeguarding policies and procedures.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector discussed with the manager how she plans to move the pre-school forward to improve outcomes for children further.
- The inspector observed staff interactions with children and spoke to staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day about the service that they receive from the pre-school.

Inspector

Sara Garrity

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager has made positive changes since the previous inspection. She has successfully identified and addressed areas for improvement to help continuously raise outcomes for children. Safeguarding is effective. The manager meets with staff regularly to discuss their practice and provides training to support their professional development. For example, staff attend regular child protection training. Staff have a thorough knowledge of the safeguarding and welfare requirements and are clear about their role in keeping children safe and secure. The manager monitors and tracks the progress of all children effectively. Any gaps in learning are quickly identified and appropriate action is taken. Staff have established good links with the local schools and other professionals, which helps to ensure continuity of learning and care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

All children make particularly good progress in their speech development because the manager and staff support their communication and language well. For example, they use commentary and repetition to support children with learning new vocabulary and to improve their pronunciation. Children have many opportunities to be creative and to use their imagination. For instance, they enjoy shaping modelling foam to explore textures and stimulate their senses. Children develop an understanding of mathematical concepts, such as 'more' and 'less', as they add water to tubes to make an egg float to the top. Parents are involved in their children's learning, for example, they receive regular feedback about how their children are progressing and meet frequently with staff to share information.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The manager and staff are good role models. They help children to share resources and to take turns during activities, which encourages their self-esteem and confidence. Children behave well. Staff encourage children to learn about risks and how to stay safe. For example, children learn how to go up and down the slope in the garden safely. Children explore their community and experience the world around them. For example, they have daily opportunities to exercise in the fresh air and they benefit from regular outings to parks, shops and local events, such as joining in with story time at the library. Staff teach children about a healthy diet and where food comes from. For example, children plant vegetables in the garden and enjoy picking them, to try at snack time.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who have special educational needs and those for whom the pre-school receives additional funding, make good progress from their starting points. Children acquire the skills needed for their future and eventual move on to school.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | 127602 |
| Local authority | Kent |
| Inspection number | 1028188 |
| 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 | 26 |
| Number of children on roll | 32 |
| Name of registered person | St Martins Pre school Committee |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP519595 |
| Date of previous inspection | 31 January 2013 |
| Telephone number | 07933 792161 |

St Martins Pre-School registered in 1971 and operates from a church hall in Shepway, Maidstone, Kent. It is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am to 2pm and on Wednesday from 9am to midday, during term time only. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employs seven staff, of whom five hold a childcare qualification at level 2 or above. The manager holds a foundation degree in childcare.

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