

St. Michaels Preschool

St Michaels C of E Primary School, Ashford Road, Tenterden, TN30 6PU



Inspection date

22 September 2016

Previous inspection date

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

- Children have excellent opportunities to develop and challenge their physical abilities. For example, they climb trees and negotiate obstacle equipment with great confidence. They have experienced army fitness instructors to extend their skills.
- The manager and staff establish extremely effective partnerships with other early years professionals. This supports children to make outstanding progress. There is an exceptional level of consistency in children's learning. For instance, staff regularly visit the other settings that children attend to share their development and achievements.
- Children develop exceptional early reading and writing skills. For example, they learn sounds of the week and rearrange letters to form words. This supports them extremely well to develop skills for their future learning.
- Staff support children to manage the move to school in a highly impressive way. For example, they visit the school Reception class each week to join in with story time and outdoor play.
- The relationships between staff and children are inspirational. Staff know every child extremely well and work exceptionally hard to meet their care needs and routines.
- Children experience highly stimulating activities that support their understanding of the world around them. For instance, they observe a bee hive and make candles from the collected wax.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build upon children's already excellent understanding of other people's similarities and differences even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the staff's interaction with children.
- The inspector viewed the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector looked at the written documentation, including a sample of the policies and procedures, risk assessments and staff training records.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff, and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Kelly Hawkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager continuously reviews the provision and makes positive changes to practice. For instance, the highly experienced team completes regular observations and evaluates the activities daily. However, some opportunities, such as building even further on children's existing awareness of other people's similarities and differences, are yet to be fully developed. The manager monitors the quality of teaching exceptionally well. Staff have meetings with her and are encouraged to attend training. For example, they attended courses to improve how they support children's emotional well-being even further. Staff establish inspirational partnerships with parents. For example, they encourage parents to make resources with their children. The manager accurately tracks the development of individual and groups of children to highlight any areas they need help to catch up in. Staff use the additional funding they receive to support children's individual needs outstandingly well. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an extensive knowledge of how to prevent children from being exposed to potential harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are highly skilful at including children's interests into their daily plans. They extend children's learning extremely well and provide highly motivational opportunities to develop their creativity skills. For example, children excitedly build with blocks and staff help them to create 'cement' using foam. They use spatulas to cement their constructions together. Staff use highly impressive ways to support children's communication skills. For example, they consistently use hand signs to accompany words and ask children well-thought-out questions to encourage them to think.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children have excellent experiences to develop their understanding and respect for others. For instance, they regularly visit care homes to sing and play games with the residents. Staff are inspirational role models. Children are extremely polite and behave impeccably. They understand the importance of healthy eating. For example, children take part in growing their own vegetables. They enthusiastically take an active role in washing, peeling and cutting their harvested vegetables, such as onions and radishes.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make outstanding progress, including those who receive additional funding. They develop an excellent range of skills to support the next stage of their learning. Children learn complex mathematical skills. For example, they explore what happens when they add water to a rotating wheel, discussing speed and weight. Children are extremely independent and have an active role in their day. For instance, they choose their own play and share their thoughts on the activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY481139
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	987984
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	15
Name of registered person	Brigitte Doreen Watkins
Registered person unique reference number	RP512458
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07713064605

St Michael's Pre-School re-registered in 2014 due to a relocation of premises. It is privately owned and operates from a building within the grounds of St Michael's Church of England Primary School, Tenterden, Kent. The pre-school is open on Mondays from 9am to 3pm and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am to midday, term time only. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are six staff; of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, one staff member holds a relevant early years degree and one member of staff has early years professional status.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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