

St Catherine's Independent Nursery

St Catherines Rc Primary School, Moss Lane, Leyland, PR25 4SJ



Inspection date

11 January 2017

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 leads a highly motivated team of staff who show a genuine desire to help children to achieve the best outcomes. Children make excellent progress.
- The manager undertakes very thorough self-evaluation and development planning. She regularly engages with staff, parents, children and the local authority for feedback.
- There is a very strong focus on keeping children safe. Children help to carry out risk assessments in the environment on a daily basis. This helps them to become aware of potential hazards and staff help them to learn about how to keep themselves safe. All staff have current paediatric first-aid certificates.
- Staff take parents on the journey of children's progress and development. The manager and staff have an impressive determination to support parents to gain a deeper understanding of effective teaching. They share their expertise with parents in a variety of ways and help them to precisely guide children's learning at home.
- Staff have a natural ability to observe and reflect on children's levels of engagement. They are skilled in following children's lead and intervening to support, stimulate or extend learning to provide optimal challenge. Staff are continuously alert to children's interests and fascinations during their spontaneous play.
- Staff are full of energy and excitement which totally captivates children. Children are eager to contribute their diverse ideas. Staff value each contribution, showing awe and wonder to encourage their active participation.
- Staff get to know children exceptionally well and value their unique qualities. They have a genuine enthusiasm in celebrating children's individual achievements and encouraging their strong self-esteem.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to maintain and reflect on the excellent teaching that drives children's learning towards outstanding in all areas.

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 held a meeting with the nursery manager and looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector reviewed the nursery's self-evaluation.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to some parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lisa Bolton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a comprehensive understanding of what to do if they have any concerns. The manager keeps up to date with local authority procedures to help to protect children from harm. Children are taught to understand that it is safe to say no to bad things. Students are well supported to develop their own knowledge, for example, through undertaking free online safeguarding training. Robust recruitment and induction procedures are in place. Staff are extremely well trained. They are supported to develop their practice to the highest standards and this significantly contributes to excellent outcomes for children. Staff supervision has a consistently strong focus on children's learning and development, staff performance and safeguarding. Children's progress is meticulously monitored, particularly in relation to more vulnerable groups, such as those who have special educational needs or disabilities. Prompt action is undertaken to focus efforts on narrowing any gaps in achievement. The manager is considering how to maintain the superb practice that drives children's learning towards outstanding in all areas.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are highly skilled and know precisely how children learn. They have a particularly impressive understanding of the gradual steps in progress that some children who have special educational needs or disabilities make. Superb partnerships exist between the special educational needs coordinator, key persons, parents and external agencies where necessary. Excellent focused assessment and planning help staff to keep a sharp focus on working towards children's next steps in development. Staff ask a range of challenging questions that prompt children to think. They frequently model the use of new vocabulary, such as 'pipette'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's superb behaviour is expertly guided by skilful staff who know how to nurture children's personal, social and emotional well-being. Extremely strong emotional attachments that are based on mutual respect are in place. The atmosphere is very positive, relaxed and fun. All children are settled and know that staff are there to support and guide them. The play environments are well organised and children understand how to access a broad range of tools and equipment. They enjoy the freedom of choosing to play indoors or outdoors and their physical well-being is extremely well supported. Children show high levels of independence at lunchtimes and can identify healthy choices.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are remarkably independent. They quickly become deeply engaged in play and they are highly focused on achieving what they set out to do. Children are motivated to undertake care routines by themselves. They are empowered by clear routines and staff's high expectations. This helps to prepare them for school when the time comes. Children make excellent progress from when they begin to attend. Children who have special educational needs or disabilities and those in receipt of the early years pupil premium are extremely well supported. They make rapid progress within a short period of time.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY488889
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	1014118
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	3 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	40
Name of registered person	St Catherine's Independent Nursery
Registered person unique reference number	RP534560
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01772 456304

St Catherine's Independent Nursery was registered in 2015. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one at level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for Christmas and the Easter holidays. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who access the early years pupil premium and children who have special educational needs or disabilities.

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