

St Michael's Christian Pre-School



Norton Church Centre, Maynard Avenue, STOURBRIDGE, West Midlands, DY8 3EE

Inspection date

12 June 2017

Previous inspection date

24 March 2015

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

- Leadership is inspirational. The management team and staff are extremely committed and highly effective in continually enhancing and developing all aspects of the pre-school.
- Children benefit from a vibrant and stimulating environment. They quickly become absorbed in activities when they arrive. Staff meticulously plan for all areas of learning and they spend time carefully enhancing the inviting and interesting play areas so that they are highly appealing to children.
- The management team has an excellent overview of the very good progress that all children are making. Monitoring arrangements are strong and all children's ongoing development is identified precisely. This helps staff to have an excellent understanding of the abilities and next step targets for each child.
- Staff are motivated and interested in playing with the children. Staff continually support children's learning, involving themselves in children's games and discussing their ideas.
- Children are encouraged to celebrate and be thankful for the experiences that they have. Staff teach children about the wider world around them and remind them to think of others as well as themselves.
- Staff praise children for their contribution or for things that they do well during the session. Staff and children regularly celebrate all aspects of children's achievement. This fosters an extremely positive environment where all children thrive.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enhance and expand the already excellent variety of teaching methods used to promote the communication and language skills of children waiting for specialist support from other professionals.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability and training of staff.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff and took account of their views.

Inspector

Julia Galloway

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff continually update and build on their already secure knowledge regarding safeguarding. This helps to provide an ethos that is vigilant in ensuring children's welfare. The management team continually finds ways to enrich staff's professional development. All staff benefit from reviewing the strengths and weaknesses in both their own and colleagues' teaching. This has a positive impact on teaching, which is of a consistently outstanding level. Staff recognise where they can enhance specific teaching methods for children who are awaiting support from other specialist professionals. Parents have strong relationships with staff. They regularly take part in events that help enhance the facilities and experiences that children have. Staff provide regular and precise information for parents about their child's progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are highly skilled at supporting the learning of children who are doing different activities. They help two children to write letters and one child to draw and identify shapes, while also encouraging their positive behaviour and helping other children to put on dressing-up clothes. The excellent balance between adult-led and child-initiated activities provides children with optimum opportunities to make exceptional progress. Staff effortlessly differentiate their teaching during group activities so that all children are included and take part. Less confident children hold up a card that shows the number of children that are present, while older children easily identify numbers and count up to 30.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's behaviour is exceptional. They are respectful to each other and play happily together. Children build friendships as they play imaginatively. Staff develop close bonds with children and they are highly tuned into the emotional well-being of each child. They are sensitive to each child's unique needs. Healthy foods and physical activities are part of the daily routine. This helps to ensure children's good health and well-being. Children thoroughly enjoy exploring the exciting garden. They enjoy the challenge of balancing on a log and tyres. Children show determination to carry bowls of water across the garden and explain how they will use it to mix with mud so that bricks stick together.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children, including those who receive additional government funding, make exceptionally good progress in their learning. Children are rapidly gaining skills that help prepare them in readiness for school. Older children's literacy and mathematic skills are developing exceptionally well. Children confidently recognise letters and are beginning to identify the sounds of words that rhyme with each other. All children are independent, confident, listen well and show an excellent understanding of the daily routine.

Setting details

Unique reference number	253939
Local authority	Dudley
Inspection number	1090359
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	30
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	St Michael's Christian Pre-school Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP909050
Date of previous inspection	24 March 2015
Telephone number	01384 393647

St Michael's Christian Pre- School registered in 1993. The setting employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The provision opens from Monday to Friday term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 12.15pm. The provision provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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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