

Platt School Nursery

Maidstone Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 8JY



Inspection date

16 January 2018

Previous inspection date

1 July 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 playing and learning in the positive, friendly environment. They develop good social skills and behave well.
- Children make good progress in their learning and development. The effective partnership working between staff at the nursery and the host school very successfully helps to prepare children for moving on in their education.
- Parents are positive about the quality of the provision and supportive of the staff. They receive regular information about the day-to-day life of the nursery and children benefit from observing the friendly interaction between the staff and their parents.
- Staff make good use of group times to promote children's self-esteem, encouraging them to express their views and speak in front of others.
- The managers have effective arrangements to monitor the progress that children make and to coach and mentor staff. They have recently increased the frequency of one-to-one supervisory meetings to support individual staff to confidently complete the newly introduced online assessment records.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff provide a lot of support for children to learn techniques in using art and craft resources but, at times, activities are planned by adults and do not encourage children to explore their own ideas.
- Staff do not consistently use their observations to plan as precisely as possible for children's next steps in learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the opportunities for children to explore their own creative ideas
- develop further the support for staff to use observations of children to plan more precisely for their individual future learning goals.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas used by children.
- The inspector observed the interaction of staff and children during a range of activities.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gather their views and read a range of written comments.
- The inspector viewed a range of relevant documentation, including policies and records of children's progress.

Inspector

Liz Caluori

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff work very effectively together. Ongoing self-evaluation takes into account the views of all staff and parents. This, along with effective monitoring of the provision by the managers, helps to successfully identify areas for improvement. For example, following feedback from parents, the manager has introduced regular written bulletins to share information about forthcoming events and topics. In addition, the manager reorganised the environment having noticed that children were not choosing to spend as much time in the creative corner as other areas of the group room. Safeguarding is effective. All staff are aware of the procedures to follow should they have concerns about children's welfare. There is good partnership working with staff at the host school and expertise is shared well to promote children's safety, well-being and learning. Staff also have experience of working successfully with a range of relevant professionals, including speech and language therapists.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan a broad range of activities that, overall, captures and maintains children's interest well. Activities, such as playing with foam and using paintbrushes in a tray of glitter, help children to explore different textures and materials. Staff make good use of these opportunities to encourage children to make marks in preparation for their early reading. Staff use their knowledge of children's individual backgrounds and experiences to skilfully extend their understanding of the world. For example, as part of a topic to look at different countries, staff worked with parents to gather information about the places that children had visited. They began the topic looking at France, as the country most familiar to the children. Through discussions and art activities, children learned about the national flag and the Eiffel tower.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

There is a very friendly, positive atmosphere in the nursery. Children enter happily, behave well and form good friendships. They learn to share and take turns, and are caring and helpful. For example, on noticing that a friend's apron was undone, a child carefully fastened the straps for her. Children's health is promoted well. They benefit from regular opportunities for outdoor play, having use of the school playgrounds and sports hall. Children move with control and coordination. Parents are supportive of the nursery's healthy-eating policy when sending in packed lunches, and children enjoy the nutritious snacks staff provide. Children learn about the importance of good personal hygiene and are becoming independent in their toileting and handwashing.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are motivated learners and concentrate well on their chosen activities. They gain skills that prepare them well for moving on to school. For example, they persevere as they make pictures using wooden pieces, and confidently name the different shapes and colours. Children are confident to share their views during group discussions and develop good social skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY468713
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1071608
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	Platt School Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP533028
Date of previous inspection	1 July 2014
Telephone number	01732886600

Platt School Nursery re-registered in 2014. The nursery operates from a mobile classroom in the grounds of the village primary school in Kent. It operates from 8.45am to 3.15pm from Monday to Friday, during school term times. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are six members of staff. Of these, four hold relevant childcare qualifications from level 2 to level 4, one is unqualified and one is an apprentice/trainee.

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