

St Mary's Nursery School

Queen's Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 2LB



Inspection date

9 March 2018

Previous inspection date

27 February 2015

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

- Leaders and managers use effective self-evaluation. They identify areas that need developing and are proactive in planning changes to improve the environment.
- Leaders and managers develop strong partnerships with parents. They have adopted a number of strategies to keep parents fully informed of their children's learning and development. Parents feel well informed and kept up to date with their children's progress.
- Staff respond well to children's interests. They listen to children's requests and act upon their desire to explore and extend their own learning.
- Children are confident and motivated to learn. They have strong and secure relationships with staff who support children to feel safe. They confidently access the resources they need within the setting to support their learning.
- Children's individual needs are identified early and monitored regularly. Staff assist children to make progress and work with each other to support children to meet their full potential.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Opportunities are not always taken to share practice strategies with other providers and/or professionals working with children, to continually raise outcomes for children.
- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to fully support children's independence. They do not always prepare children for changes in routines.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve partnerships with local providers and other professionals, to help ensure greater continuity and better outcomes for all children
- create more opportunities for children to develop independently, improving their awareness of changes in routines and time.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views.
- The inspector and supervisor took part in a joint observation.
- The inspector observed the children playing inside and outside.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, practitioners and the chair of the committee.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents, including risk assessments, policies and procedures, registration documents and staff files.

Inspector

Pippa Clark

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team has effective systems in place to identify staff development needs. They provide regular meetings to discuss with staff any professional development needs they may have. Management supports staff to access training on a regular basis. Staff are given opportunities to discuss and share practice ideas with the rest of the team. Safeguarding is effective. The staff understand the procedure to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The management team regularly monitors and reviews children's progress, identifying any gaps in their learning. Plans are in place to help close any identified gaps in children's development and to ensure the provision meets their current needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is strong and focused on children's interests. Staff listen to what children say and provide opportunities for them based on their current ideas. The children enjoy what they call a science experiment as they explore the effects of mixing different liquids together to see what reaction they cause. Staff support children's mathematical and creative development. For example, staff hide coins in the sand, and children find these and call it their treasure. They count the coins and keep a log of how many they find. Children close their eyes and make up stories about from where the treasure might have come. Parents are encouraged and welcomed into the setting to share their interests and hobbies with the children. Staff are enthusiastic about the experiences they provide for children to extend their skills. For instance, they take part with the children when a parent shows them how to play the cello. Staff skilfully adapt their teaching methods to support all children's learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are confident and demonstrate positive behaviour. They take turns and listen to each other's ideas. For example, the children listen when a child suggests a game to play. They pass a ball through their legs to the person behind them before running to the back of the line to wait for their next turn. Staff provide opportunities for children to learn about cultural differences and diversity. Staff talk to the children about Chinese New Year and they experience how to eat noodles with chopsticks. Healthy snacks are provided for children and they can choose when they have them. Staff engage children in conversations about the food they are eating and the benefits of eating healthily.

Outcomes for children are good

Children communicate well with their peers and adults. They share ideas with each other and are confident in making their needs known. They manage their self-care needs well and can dress and undress independently. All children make good progress from their starting points and are supported to develop the skills needed to prepare them for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109512
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1089039
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	20
Number of children on roll	44
Name of registered person	St Mary's Nursery School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP905062
Date of previous inspection	27 February 2015
Telephone number	01892 611721

St Mary's Nursery School operates from a mobile classroom on the school premises located at Chapel Green. It opens Monday to Friday from 8.45am until 3.30pm, during term time. There are five members of staff who work with the children, all of whom hold a relevant early years qualification. The nursery school is in receipt of funding for children aged three and four years, and also receives early years pupil premium funding.

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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