

St Mary Magdalene Catholic Independent Nursery



c/o St Mary Magdalene CPS, Hastings Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN40 2ND

Inspection date	15 May 2018
Previous inspection date	11 June 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

- Staff create a welcoming, friendly and stimulating environment. Children are very happy and form close relationships with adults, who help them feel safe, secure and ready to learn. Children behave well and learn to respect each other.
- Staff plan a wide range of interesting activities for all children. They carefully support children's development, encourage their exploration and teach new skills. Children enjoy learning and make good progress from their starting points.
- Partnerships with parents are successful. Staff use effective ways to involve parents in all aspects of their children's learning. They regularly invite parents into the nursery to discuss their children's learning and experiences.
- The manager and staff monitor children's development closely. They review individual and groups of children's progress closely, offering extra support to close any learning gaps. They have successfully focused on supporting boys' engagement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not make the most of all interactions with children to fully extend their learning.
- Staff do not make the best use of their questioning to fully encourage children to think of their own ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to strengthen teaching to provide more challenge, in particular during conversations and activities, to help to further extend children's learning
- continue to enhance the use of questioning to help children to consistently think of their own ideas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practices and the impact these have on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector read some of the nursery's documentation, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and discussed children's play, learning and progress.

Inspector

Ben Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The ambitious manager works closely with her enthusiastic and well-qualified staff to help to accurately evaluate the nursery and make ongoing improvements to benefit children. They have recently focused on getting children ready for school. For example, the manager works closely with other professionals and schools to identify the key skills children need for starting school. The manager supports staff professional development successfully. She keeps their skills up to date, such as through good support and relevant training. After recent training, staff have improved their support for children's physical activity and exercise and introduced exciting new equipment. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff attend training and have a thorough understanding of how to deal with any child protection concerns. They maintain a very safe and secure environment.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know each child well. They assess children's development closely and plan effectively to move them on in their next stage in learning. Staff provide plenty of learning experiences that interest and motivate children. For example, children enjoy using 'stop' and 'go' signs as they complete challenging obstacle courses outdoors. They confidently talk about road safety and show good imagination as they pretend to stop and direct traffic. Staff support children's early literacy skills very well. For example, during group activities, children confidently recognise letters and think of words that begin with each different letter sound. Staff show a genuine interest in children's lives and children enthusiastically talk about their families, interests and recent experiences.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are very caring and attentive to children's needs. Children consistently receive warm praise and encouragement throughout their play and take pride in their achievements. For example, they proudly show off their finished drawings and paintings. Children develop a strong sense of independence. They carefully cut up fruit for their snack and find their names as they arrive in the morning. Children behave well and are very sociable. They play together happily and pretend to make meals and read stories.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are curious, motivated and eager learners. They quickly gain the skills needed for the next stage in their learning and for school. Children begin to write their name with confidence and give good detail to pictures. They count with ease and recognise shapes as they play. Children communicate very well and use speech to guide their play and express themselves. They are physically active and confidently use tools and equipment in the garden. Children are kind, thoughtful and respectful of others and their differences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY236697
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1091494
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	18
Number of children on roll	32
Name of registered person	Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP910083
Date of previous inspection	11 June 2015
Telephone number	01424 224499

St Mary Magdalene Catholic Independent Nursery registered in 2002. It is open between 8am and 3.15pm each weekday, during term time. There are four staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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