

St Columb Minor Preschool

St Columb Minor Parish Church, Parkenbutts, Newquay, Cornwall TR7
3HE



Inspection date	31 October 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Good Not applicable	2
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- The management team strives to provide the best possible service for children and families. They continually reflect and evaluate the provision to make positive changes to the pre-school. For example, they have reorganised the environment very effectively to enhance children's learning experiences.
- Staff have a good understanding of how children learn through play. For example, they encourage older children to identify shapes as they explore sensory resources. Younger children enjoy sorting and counting objects to develop their mathematical understanding. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. An effective two-way flow of information about children's achievements provides a consistent approach to children's care and learning.
- Staff are caring and attentive to children's individual needs. They get to know them well through effective settling procedures and form close bonds with them. Staff nurture children's interests and enthusiasms to promote their enjoyment of learning well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to encourage children to experiment and follow their own ideas, to deepen their involvement in activities and solve problems.
- Although staff provide a stimulating learning environment, there are fewer opportunities for children to develop their skills in all areas of the curriculum when they prefer to play outdoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more encouragement to children to experiment, follow their own ideas and solve problems independently
- extend opportunities for children to develop their skills in all areas of the curriculum when they prefer to play outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interacting with children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the management team.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents including children's records.
- The inspector talked to children, staff and parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Margaret Baird

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff know the signs that might lead them to be concerned about a child's welfare. They are clear about local safeguarding procedures. Recruitment and induction procedures for staff are thorough and the manager provides good support to staff to improve their knowledge and skills further. For example, recent training enhanced their understanding of how to provide inspiring activities that support and extend children's mathematical development. The manager tracks children's development thoroughly to identify and address any gaps in their learning. Staff work in partnership with outside agencies and use funding effectively for children who may require additional support. Good liaison with other providers and local schools helps children to move on to their future education with confidence and self-assurance.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their observations to assess children's levels of development accurately. They plan interesting activities that meet children's individual needs and help them move on in their learning. For example, children eagerly chop vegetables and are delighted to discover the seeds inside. Children become capable and motivated learners as they use tools with increasing skill to plant and nurture their seeds. Staff provide good support to them to understand what plants need to grow and promote their awareness of where healthy food comes from. Staff support children to gain good early literacy skills. For example, they encourage them to read signs and make lists in the role-play area. Older children become familiar with the sounds letters make and know that print carries meaning. Younger children enjoy sharing books and talk about their favourite characters.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff regularly model considerate behaviour and encourage children to use good manners. They provide encouragement for turn taking and use effective strategies, such as sand timers, to encourage sharing and cooperation. Children learn to adopt healthy lifestyles and follow good hygiene routines. Mealtimes are sociable and staff sit with children and encourage them to talk about their day. Staff maximise opportunities to encourage children to help themselves and continually praise their efforts to promote their good skills and self-esteem. Children benefit from a variety of visits to places of interest where they gain a good understanding of the local community.

Outcomes for children are good

Children gain the skills necessary for future learning and their eventual move on to school. They develop good levels of independence and take a pride in undertaking small tasks, such as managing their own personal care for themselves. Children develop good communication and language skills. Younger children are confident about making their needs known and quickly learn new words. Older children listen carefully to instructions and speak fluently about their experiences. Children concentrate well take part in activities with enthusiasm.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY538029
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	10077272
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	20
Name of registered person	St Columb Minor Preschool Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP538028
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01637 879358

St Columb Minor Preschool Ltd. registered in 2016. It operates from St Column Minor parish church hall. There are seven members of staff, all of whom hold relevant qualifications at level 2 or above. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7am and 6pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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