

St Gregory's Montessori Nursery School

Victoria Drive, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN20 8QY



Inspection date

18 October 2018

Previous inspection date

30 September 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is outstanding

- Staff make meticulous assessments of children's progress. They skilfully use their high-quality observations to ensure that they understand children's individual learning styles, interests and individual needs extremely well. Managers monitor children's progress precisely to inform their insightful evaluations and to ensure all children have equal opportunities to meet their full potential.
- Children make exceptional progress from their starting points. Children who have special educational needs are given excellent support to help them develop from their starting points. This includes thorough working in extremely close partnership with other professionals and ensuring that children benefit from accurately targeted support.
- Managers work very effectively with parents to support children's excellent well-being. For example, they provide thorough information on how to provide nutritious meals and offer kits which enable parents to cook healthy meals together with their children. Staff facilitate the continuation of learning in the home exceptionally well and ensure parents understand fully children's developmental needs.
- Managers successfully ensure that the well-qualified staff are highly motivated and act as extremely positive role models to children. Managers provide staff with excellent opportunities to extend their already exceptional teaching skills and to continue to build on their vast knowledge of early years education.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve even further the excellent opportunities children have to experience and learn about communities beyond their own.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside and outdoors.
- The inspector talked with staff, children and the managers at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's learning assessment records and staff planning documentation, and checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and through the written comments parents submitted.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of children's learning and staff practice with the manager.

Inspector
Kerry Lynn

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Managers ensure that all staff have an extensive understanding of how to safeguard children, which includes knowing precisely what to do if they have a concern about children's welfare. They empower children to understand how to keep themselves safe. For instance, they involve children in making and following robust risk assessments. Managers show excellence in continually improving practice. For example, through using scrupulous evaluations and focused staff training, they have made extensive changes to the garden area which have substantially improved the opportunities for outdoor learning. The garden area is now highly stimulating and full of great opportunities for children to develop and learn.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff use exemplary teaching skills to support children's learning. They know exactly what each child's developmental goals are and focus on these excellently in their interactions with children. For example, they introduce games linked to children's favourite stories to develop their language skills. Staff show exceptional skill in challenging children. For instance, they provide encouragement and support to boost children's morale, which leads to children feeling confident to climb, jump and swing from a climbing frame. Children develop great upper-body strength, balance and control. Staff provide children with brilliant opportunities to understand the differences that exist between people. They plan to extend these by widening children's experiences of the local communities.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff use extremely effective settling-in procedures to form fantastic relationships with the children. Children demonstrate high levels of security and confidence, which enables their individual personalities to shine through beautifully. Children behave very well, they show a great deal of kindness towards each other, and clearly understand the rules and routines they need to follow. Staff ensure children are exceptionally well prepared for when they move to other settings, such as school. They successfully ensure that children develop great confidence in carrying out, at times complex, tasks by themselves. For example, children learn to use a range of fastenings and use tools efficiently, such as knives, to prepare snacks.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children become engrossed in an extensive variety of activities that range from experimenting with materials, such as mud and petals to see what happens when they mix and squeeze them into water, to managing to complete complex puzzles. Children leave the setting significantly well prepared for their future learning. For example, they have excellent numeracy skills and begin to understand some simple calculations. They confidently know how many are left when they sing number rhymes that lead to simple subtraction sums. Children develop physical skills that encourage them to use tools, including those used for drawing and writing, with great control.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109315
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	10060727
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	28
Number of children on roll	40
Name of registered person	St. Gregory's Montessori Nursery School Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP517885
Date of previous inspection	30 September 2015
Telephone number	01323 639164

St Gregory's Montessori Nursery School operates from a church hall adjacent to St Gregory's main church building in Eastbourne, Sussex. The nursery opens Monday to Friday during school term times. Sessions are from 8.30am until 4pm. The nursery employs seven staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. It provides funded early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery follows the Montessori educational philosophy.

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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