

St Cuthberts Pre-School Playgroup

St Cuthberts Church Hall, Botanic Road, Southport, Merseyside PR9 7NN



Inspection date	4 February 2019
Previous inspection date	6 October 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

This provision is outstanding

- The leadership team are committed to the ongoing development of the pre-school. They rigorously evaluate the quality of the setting and have an uncompromising vision for the future of the pre-school. Staff are actively encouraged to contribute their ideas to action plans. Children's ideas and opinions are sought and addressed each day.
- Staff work very well with parents. They provide parents with detailed information about what their children have enjoyed and achieved. Staff give parents suggestions and ideas about how they can support children's learning at home. Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) extremely well. They engage with other professionals and parents to promote continuity of approach. All children make a high level of progress from their starting points, as a result.
- Staff make excellent use of praise and encouragement. They skilfully build on children's self-confidence and motivation to try things that they find challenging, such as beginning to write their names. Children are very keen to engage in a range of activities and are confident to try again, building resilience and high levels of curiosity.
- Children have numerous opportunities to develop their early literacy and communication skills. Staff make use of every opportunity to encourage children to make marks and form letters using different tools and materials. Staff talk to children about the books they have read, to check their understanding and develop their ideas.
- Children's social skills are extremely well supported. They are polite to each other and visitors. Staff help them to recognise their differences and resolve situations to their mutual satisfaction. Children clearly understand what is expected of them and discuss their nursery 'promises' each day, such as kind hands and indoor voices. Their behaviour is excellent.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to focus on evaluating and enhancing the quality of teaching, to maintain a consistently high level of practice throughout the setting.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents and reviewed their written feedback to gather their views.
- The inspector observed activities indoors and outside. She conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with children and staff at appropriate times. She sampled and discussed relevant documents, including evidence of staff's qualifications, suitability and children's records.
- The inspector held a meeting with the leadership team.

Inspector

Lauren Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff demonstrate a strong commitment to protecting children from harm. Leaders regularly assess staff's understanding of safeguarding and wider child protection issues. They have precise and clear procedures in place to ensure that all issues are dealt with quickly to ensure children are safe. Children enthusiastically join in with routines that promote their safety. For example, they stand together in a line and join in with a head count, to make sure all children are present when they come in from outdoor play. Leaders effectively supervise and observe staff's practice. They intend to use new frameworks to deepen and extend their evaluations of the impact of practice, to promote the highest quality teaching and interactions. Leaders use additional funding well based on the individual needs of children, to support their excellent progress and engagement.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children are highly motivated and engaged in learning. Older children concentrate very well during group activities, such as story time. They listen carefully to staff reading stories, pointing out rhyming words and recalling what happened. Staff extend children's understanding by helping them to match words to actions. Staff plan carefully to create high-quality learning opportunities indoors and outdoors. Children develop their gross motor skills using ladders and hoops in the outdoor area. Indoors, children become totally immersed in their imaginative play as they write a menu and create dishes inspired by what they have learned about Chinese New Year and traditional Chinese food. Younger children thoroughly enjoy using puppets as they sing along to their favourite nursery rhymes, played on a piano.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff have an extremely nurturing approach and have a sharp focus on promoting children's emotional and physical welfare. Children develop strong bonds with their key person and other staff. They know who to approach if they need help and staff are very attentive to children's individual needs. Staff regularly plan trips out into the local community and make excellent use of the learning opportunities that arise. For example, as children walk they point out and record different shapes they have seen in the environment. Staff help children to understand how to keep themselves healthy. They talk with children about the effects of physical exercise on their bodies as they 'warm up' in the outdoor area. Children have healthy snacks and mealtimes are social occasions where children and staff sit and talk together.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are extremely well prepared for the next stages in their learning and the move to school. They are highly motivated and engaged in the wide variety of interesting, stimulating activities that staff provide. Leaders make excellent use of opportunities to provide focused support for children with SEND. Children are consistently and effectively encouraged to explore their own ideas, be creative and use their imaginations. They follow their own interests and staff incorporate everything they know about what children enjoy at home into their activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	310478
Local authority	Sefton
Inspection number	10065722
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	31
Number of children on roll	50
Name of registered person	St Cuthberts Pre-school Playgroup (Church Town)
Registered person unique reference number	RP519510
Date of previous inspection	6 October 2015
Telephone number	07875652248

St Cuthberts Pre-school Playgroup registered in 1984. The nursery employs 12 staff including the manager. Of these, 9 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery operates from 8am until 3.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. It opens from 8am until 1pm on a Thursday, in term time only. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. They provide care for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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