

St Margarets Nursery & After School Club

Sea Street, St. Margarets-at-Cliffe, Nr Dover, Kent CT15 6SS



Inspection date

8 March 2019

Previous inspection date

13 November 2015

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

This provision is good

- Staff successfully prepare children for their move to school and next stage in learning. For instance, staff make good links with schools to help ensure continuity of learning and support children to become familiar with their new surroundings.
- Relationships between staff provide good role models for the children and influence children's good manners.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff use various ways to engage and involve parents effectively in the nursery and in their children's learning.
- The manager accurately evaluates the nursery. She includes the views of parents, staff and children to help identify areas for further improvement. For example, opportunities for children to enhance their literacy have been effectively implemented.
- Staff help children develop their growing independence skills. For instance, children enjoy being actively involved in the preparation of their snack and make independent play choices according to their individual interests.
- On some occasions, group activities are not always used well to engage all children in the learning opportunities.
- Staff do not always consistently use the same behaviour strategies to develop children's understanding of behaviour expectations.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of large-group activities to increase the learning opportunities for all children
- review behaviour strategies to help ensure all practitioners consistently use the same approach to support children's understanding further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and children's activities, completed a joint observation with the manager and held discussions about children's progress and learning.
- The inspector held conversations with the manager, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability checks and their qualifications, and sampled relevant policies and procedures.
- The inspector took into account the views of the parents during the inspection.

Inspector

Kimberley Luckham

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The manager effectively monitors children's progress, including different groups of children, to help close any emerging gaps in their learning. For example, staff effectively provided small group activities throughout the session to strengthen children's communication and language skills. The manager continually improves the quality of staff practice. For instance, she organises relevant training and individual support to help raise standards in teaching. Staff attended training to develop the outdoor environment and provide opportunities for children to learn about the world around them. Safeguarding is effective. Staff keep their safeguarding knowledge up to date and are fully aware of the procedure to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff assess individual children's development well and provide activities that suit their individual learning needs. They include information from parents about children's interests and use a wide range of resources to support children's development. For instance, children enthusiastically and creatively explore dough with a range of tools. Staff effectively challenge the children to use their thinking skills. For instance, they discuss the different features of animals and use the tools and materials they need to create them. Staff teach mathematics well. For example, they encourage children to compare size and volume and to count objects during their play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and settled in the welcoming environment staff provide. Children have opportunities to follow their interests and lead their own play. Staff help children to develop their awareness of healthy lifestyles. For example, they provide nutritious snacks and meals. They encourage children to grow vegetables in the nursery garden. Staff build on children's confidence and sense of belonging well. For instance, they constantly praise children for their achievements.

Outcomes for children are good

Children play and explore cooperatively together. They use their imagination well, confidently share views and negotiate their play ideas. Children develop a good understanding of diversity beyond their immediate family. For instance, the environment has positive cultural images and role play resources. Children enjoy learning about different festivals around the world. Children gain a good sense of the community they are part of. For instance, they are actively involved in local events and spend time at the nearby shops and church. All children make good progress in their learning from their starting points.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127599
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10063743
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	48
Name of registered person	St Margaret's Nursery and After School Club Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP904751
Date of previous inspection	13 November 2015
Telephone number	01304 853352

St. Margaret's Nursery and After School Club is committee run and opened in 1992. It operates from a separate building in the grounds of St. Margaret's of Cliffe County Primary School, near Dover, Kent. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 10 members of staff. The manager holds early years professional status and nine staff hold relevant National Vocational Qualifications at level 3. One member of staff is a qualified teacher. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 3pm, during term time only. The out-of-school club operates Monday to Friday from 7.45am to 8.45am and from 3.15pm to 16.30pm during term time only.

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