

St Aidans Nursery

The Vicarage, St. Gregorys Crescent, GRAVESEND, Kent DA12 4JL



Inspection date	24 May 2019
Previous inspection date	20 May 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

- This nursery provides a welcoming environment where staff support positive relationships with children and their families. Consequently, children settle in well and feel comfortable with the adults who care for them.
- There are good arrangements in place for staff supervision, which help to promote good outcomes for children. Staff attend a range of training courses and have a secure knowledge of child protection procedures and how to keep children safe.
- Staff are very positive role models, who teach children to share, take turns and respect one another's feelings. Therefore, children develop valuable social skills.
- Staff make the most of opportunities to introduce mathematical language and encourage children to further explore their ideas and thoughts throughout the daily routine.
- Although staff provide a wide range of exciting activities to support children's learning, there are times when some areas could be adapted to follow children's interests and enthusiasm. For example, sometimes children need more space when playing with water outside.
- There is scope to improve how staff gather information about some children's progress at home after they have settled in at the nursery.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider how resources can be used in a variety of ways when children show an increased interest in activities and more space is needed to accommodate their interests
- find more ways to involve all parents in their child's learning and development, for example, by gathering more detailed information about what children achieve at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector sampled planning and assessment records and a range of other documents.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff to consider their views on the nursery.
- The inspector held a management meeting with the manager.

Inspector

Linda du Preez

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Procedures to keep children safe are clear and understood by adults. The well-qualified and hardworking team runs the nursery efficiently and with enthusiasm. Committee members are actively involved in the nursery and are very supportive. The manager monitors the educational programmes well and has a clear picture of the progress of individual children and groups of children. This overview identified that some groups of children do not access certain areas of the curriculum. For example, some lacked interest in books. The manager made effective use of specific funding to improve the book area. Consequently, children became enticed to use this area and soon caught up in their literacy skills. This positive approach supports children's readiness for starting school. Parents are very complimentary about the nursery and comment on how well their children progress in their learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, staff make effective use of information about children's progress and development, especially when they begin attending the nursery. They observe children's play, assess their progress and plan well for the next steps in their learning. Children have ample opportunities to develop their early writing skills. For example, younger children explore patterns with the good range of writing materials and older children are proud of the letters they form as they learn to write. The targeted support provided for children's social and communication skills is a strength of this nursery. There are good links in place for partnership working with local schools and specialist services for children who need additional support. Consequently, all children are supported to make sustained progress in readiness for starting school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's independence throughout the morning by offering children praise and encouragement. Staff are very positive role models, who are kind, respectful and caring. They teach children to understand and follow simple rules and teach them to share and collaborate with one another. Consequently, children are very well behaved and caring towards one another. Staff teach children about their own well-being. For example, they teach them to keep the environment safe and about the importance of drinking water in hot weather.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are very settled and show enthusiasm for learning from the moment they arrive at the nursery. They confidently wave goodbye to their families and begin the morning chatting to adults and other children as they play. They develop valuable skills in readiness for starting school. For example, they learn about mathematical concepts such as shape and measurement as staff introduce mathematical language during sand and water play. Children enjoy exploring and developing their creative skills. For example, they delight in creating a range of drawings and paintings as creative activities are readily available inside and outside. Children remain friendly and sociable throughout the morning. They greet visitors and talk confidently about the many activities they enjoy at the nursery.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127571
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10105144
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	St Aidans Nursery School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519718
Date of previous inspection	20 May 2015
Telephone number	07715 337825

St Aidans Nursery registered in 1979. The nursery operates from a large room in a church hall in Gravesend, Kent. It opens Monday to Friday from 9am to midday, term time only. The nursery is in receipt of funding to provide free early education for two-, three-, and four-year-olds. It employs seven members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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