

St Matthews Playgroup

St Matthews Church, Clare Road, Kingsdown, Bristol BS6 5TB



Inspection date	8 July 2019
Previous inspection date	3 December 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This is a provision that requires improvement

- Leaders have failed to notify Ofsted of changes to the committee. Consequently, the necessary checks have not been carried out to ensure that all committee members are suitable to be involved in running the setting.
- Recruitment and induction arrangements are not secure enough to ensure the manager is fully involved in this process.

It has the following strengths

- Teaching is inspirational. Key persons use their comprehensive knowledge of children's needs, interests and achievements to engage children effectively in their learning. Staff meticulously monitor children's progress to ensure any gaps are swiftly closed.
- Staff establish outstanding partnerships with parents. They use highly successful strategies to keep them included in all aspects of children's learning. Parents are invited to attend workshops where staff share their expert knowledge and skills. Consequently, parents are able to complement and extend children's learning at home.
- Children relish opportunities to make choices about their learning in a vibrant and stimulating environment. Children are extremely confident and learn to manage their own safety. They take risks as they climb trees and use the rope swing.
- Children benefit from extensive opportunities to learn about customs and celebrations different from their own. These exceptional first-hand experiences teach children about respect, tolerance and acceptance, preparing them for life beyond the immediate community.
- Staff ensure children are extremely well-prepared for school. They introduce highly focused, adult-led activities to support children's understanding of school routines and expectations. Staff support this transition further by visiting the local schools with the children to develop familiarity and meet their teacher.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
ensure Ofsted is provided with the necessary information to carry out suitability checks on all committee members	22/07/2019
review the arrangements for the recruitment and induction of new staff to ensure the manager is more involved and is able to monitor practice and support the professional development of staff at the earliest opportunity.	08/09/2019

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and staff interactions with the children, in the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including evidence of staff suitability, records of the progress children make and documentation to show evidence of partnership working with other professionals and outside agencies.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation of an activity with the manager and discussed the quality of teaching.

Inspector
Holly Smith

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management requires improvement

Breaches in requirements mean that not all the required checks for new committee members have taken place. However, this does not have a significant impact on children's well-being or safety because these committee members do not have unsupervised access to children. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a secure knowledge of how to deal with concerns about children's welfare. The manager is highly reflective and has identified where some procedures need strengthening, with particular regard to recruitment and the role she should play in this. Practice is monitored informally, although the manager has exceptionally high expectations of staff. Recent training around communication strategies has seen all children excel in their early language skills. Those children who speak English as an additional language and those with special educational needs have made rapid progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have an expert knowledge of how young children learn. They have a superb awareness of children's interests and make excellent use of this to support children's learning. For example, staff use children's fascination with insects to promote early literacy skills by helping children to locate information about the different types in books. Staff ask challenging questions that motivate children and promote thinking skills exceptionally well. Staff support younger children as they prepare for their 'bug hunts' and introduce new vocabulary to them. Staff instinctively know when to support and challenge children, and join in when invited, without leading their play. They promote children's mathematical development extremely well, encouraging children to count, measure and make predictions when playing with parcels in the role-play post office.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Leaders do not prioritise children's welfare sufficiently because they have failed to carry out required checks on new committee members. Nonetheless, children are extremely happy and settled and form close attachments to staff and peers. Excellent procedures ensure the transition from home to playgroup is positive. Staff visit children and their families at home to gather information and build relationships from the outset. This helps to support children, and particularly the younger children, when they begin at the playgroup. Each child is valued and treated with the upmost respect. In turn, children have high levels of regard for others and display exemplary behaviour, resolving their own minor conflicts. Children learn where food comes from as they plant, grow and harvest herbs and vegetables and use these as ingredients in their mud kitchen.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All groups of children, including those in receipt of additional funding, make excellent progress. Children are inquisitive and eager to learn. Older children demonstrate advanced skills in mathematics and recognise when numbers are removed or changed within a number line. They make connections between letter sounds and words and practise writing on labels. Younger children are self-assured in their understanding of what they are capable of. They confidently climb and balance on wooden apparatus, demonstrating an outstanding 'can-do' attitude.

Setting details

Unique reference number	107060
Local authority	Bristol City of
Inspection number	10113899
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	36
Number of children on roll	34
Name of registered person	St Matthews Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522121
Date of previous inspection	3 December 2015
Telephone number	0117 9441598 or 0117 9735664

St Matthews Playgroup registered in 1990 and operates from the church hall of St Matthews church, Kingsdown. The playgroup is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 3pm and on Thursday from 9am to 1.30pm during the school term. Seven members of staff work with the children. Of these, five hold early years qualifications at level 3 or above. This includes the manager who holds early years professional status and a member of staff who is a qualified teacher. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance *Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted*, which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

