

Inspection of Grace Owen Nursery School

1-7 the Pavement, Duke Street, Park Hill, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S2 5QD

Inspection date: 16 June 2022

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

The inspirational management team is truly ambitious for all children. Children thrive at this inclusive nursery school. They arrive motivated and excited for the day ahead. Teaching and interactions are of a consistently high quality. The broad and balanced curriculum builds on what children know and can do. Staff have a robust understanding of the skills that children require for their future lives. Children make exceptional progress in relation to their starting points.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. For example, two year olds use wooden pegs to make shapes and patterns in a shallow sand tray. They offer to share their pegs with their friends and receive lots of praise and encouragement for doing so. Key workers make children feel extremely safe and secure. For example, babies smile and giggle as they enjoy warm and nurturing cuddles with their key person. Children engage deeply with the activities provided. Activities reflect the children's interests and promote their independence. For example, children are encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas. They talk about the characters in the story that is read to them at group time.

The nursery school remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Children who did not attend were supported extremely well. For example, during lockdown periods, families received weekly food boxes. Parents had access to a range of online activities which helped children continue their learning at home.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Staff provide a communication-rich environment. They expertly present information to children and use signing to support children's understanding. Staff introduce new vocabulary at every available opportunity. Children have outstanding language development. This helps children to communicate their needs effectively. They listen with interest and are able to follow instructions.
- Staff plan precise next steps for children. They are shared with parents in a meaningful way. Parents attend termly meetings with their child's key worker and are kept well informed with daily communication sheets which inform them about children's learning.
- Staff take every opportunity to promote children's independence. Babies are given choices. They choose which colour scarf they would like. Children are able to sign 'thank you' and place the see-through scarves on their head. Babies are excited to sing the 'Where have all the children gone' song. They delight as they pull the scarfs from their heads and reveal their happy faces.
- Staff work alongside a range of professionals to meet the needs of the children. Support plans are executed with integrity. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities make accelerated progress and meet their next steps

and targets rapidly.

- Staff have outstanding knowledge and understanding of child development. They use this knowledge and understanding to identify where children need extra support. Referrals to outside agencies are swift. As a result of these early interventions no child is left behind.
- The leadership team use supervision meetings highly effectively. There is a culture of continuous improvement across all aspects of the nursery school. Professional development is valued and supported. Staff attend training which impacts on individual children. For example, staff are training in the use of signing in order to support children with hearing impairments who attend the setting.
- Children enjoy musical enrichment projects which celebrate their varying cultures and home languages. For example, children engaged in the 'Our Street, Our Song' project and have explored fairy tales from around the world. These activities help children to recognise and celebrate the diversity of their community.
- Children's physical health is of paramount importance. Children receive meals which are home-made and nutritious. Parents are invited to participate in healthy eating courses. They learn how to prepare low-cost home-made food with nutritious ingredients.
- Parents are extremely well supported by staff. This includes key workers and managers providing tailored support to parents in crisis. Parents report that this support has been 'life changing'. They describe the school as a 'safe haven' in the community.
- Staff feel extremely supported by senior staff. They report that managers view staff well-being as a priority. They are given opportunities to discuss workload and work-life balance. Staff report that they enjoy coming to work and love working in this 'amazing' nursery school.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Safeguarding is of paramount importance. All safeguarding and care practice arrangements keep children safe from harm. Staff received ongoing safeguarding training. They are vigilant and alert to any signs that a child's safety or welfare might be at risk. Staff know how to protect children from harm. They are alert to the signs of abuse. Staff have an excellent knowledge of wider safeguarding issues. The recruitment process ensures all staff are vetted and are suitable to work with children. Leaders check the ongoing suitability of staff which further assures children's safety.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY497807
Local authority	Sheffield
Inspection number	10218678
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 at time of inspection	0 to 5
Total number of places	80
Number of children on roll	132
Name of registered person	Grace Owen Nursery School Governing Body
Registered person unique reference number	RP535137
Telephone number	0114 2722541
Date of previous inspection	11 August 2016

Information about this early years setting

Grace Owen Nursery School was registered in 2015 and is located in Sheffield. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff. Three staff hold qualified teacher status and two staff hold early years teacher status. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, for 48 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Clare Bligh

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with the headteacher about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children.
- The headteacher showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of group activities with the headteacher.

We carried out this inspection 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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