

Inspection of Melrose House Nursery School

Melrose House Nursery School, 55 Finlay Street, LONDON SW6 6HF

Inspection date: 19 May 2022

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children display growing levels of maturity. For example, on arrival, they shake hands with staff and happily say 'good morning'. Children's behaviour is good. They show that they feel safe and secure in the nursery. The warm and trusting relationships children develop with staff support their emotional well-being effectively.

Children respond positively to the high expectations for their learning and behaviour. For instance, they show good concentration as they are encouraged to exercise their hand-to-eye coordination during threading and mark-making activities. Children benefit well from playing in the garden. Younger and older children enjoy climbing up the small hill and driving ride-on toys. They practise scooping, mixing, filling and emptying containers while they play with water and sand. Children also have lots of fun as they dig for worms and make music with their peers. These play opportunities promote children's creative and physical skills successfully.

Children develop good independence skills. For example, they are encouraged to take responsibility for their personal care, including toileting. Children learn skills that are important for the next stage of their education.

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

- Leaders create a strong sense of teamwork. They communicate well with staff and help them to manage their workload. This has a positive impact on staff and children.
- Staff track children's progress well to help them to identify and address gaps in children's learning. As a result, children, including those with special educational and/or disabilities, make good progress from their starting points. For example, children's communication and language skills are developing rapidly.
- Children enjoy group activities, particularly story and rhyme times. However, on occasions, staff do not ensure that group activities are without distractions. This does not fully support children's learning and enjoyment.
- Staff teach children to share and take turns. They can sometimes intervene too quickly when children experience conflicts during play. This does not allow children time to think and find age-appropriate solutions for themselves.
- Staff organise various outings, such as to museums and local parks, and invite visitors to the nursery to share their expertise. These activities successfully add to children's already broad and wide learning experiences.
- The curriculum for mathematics is strong. Staff incorporate mathematical concepts during activities and spontaneous play. This gives children the opportunity, for example, to practise their counting skills.

- Children receive lots of praise and encouragement from staff. This motivates children to engage with their peers and other people in meaningful ways. Children show good levels of social confidence.
- Staff develop strong links with external agencies and other professionals at local schools. For example, they invite teachers into the nursery to visit children and help to prepare them for their move on to school.
- Staff support children's understanding of diversity effectively. They do this in various ways, such as by celebrating cultural and religious festivals. In addition, staff display positive images of people and signs in other languages to raise children's awareness of similarities and differences between people.
- Leaders hold regular team meetings and offer staff opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills. Recently, staff have completed phonics training to enhance their teaching of early reading. This has had a positive impact on children's knowledge of how to link letters to sounds.
- Leaders gather and use the views of parents to help to evaluate the quality of the provision effectively. For example, following feedback, leaders have increased communication with parents to ensure consistency in children's care and education. Parents and carers hold the staff in high regard. They value and appreciate the support they receive from staff, especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders talk to staff about child protection issues to ensure that their knowledge is up to date. They regard child protection as high priority during the recruitment, induction and ongoing development of staff. Staff know how to identify and report concerns about a child to protect their safety. They are also aware of the indicators that might suggest that a child is being drawn into extremist views and behaviours. Staff are deployed effectively, which enables them to supervise children well. They ensure that the play areas are safe and well maintained to help to protect children's welfare.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review group activities to ensure that children's learning and enjoyment are fully supported
- extend opportunities for children to think and find solutions to the conflicts they face during play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY369334
Local authority	Hammersmith & Fulham
Inspection number	10137945
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 at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	27
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	Melrose House Nursery Schools
Registered person unique reference number	RP904506
Telephone number	0207 736 9296
Date of previous inspection	22 January 2016

Information about this early years setting

Melrose House Nursery School registered in 2008. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am to 12.15pm on Monday and Friday and from 9.15am to 3.15pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The nursery employs seven members of staff. Of these, one holds qualified teacher status, one holds early years professional status, and four have completed appropriate childcare qualifications from level 2 to level 7. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Marisol Hernandez-Garn

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery 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 nursery.
- One of the leaders showed the inspector around the nursery and explained how staff plan and implement the curriculum.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with one of the leaders. Together, they evaluated the impact of the activities on children's learning.
- Parents and carers spoke with the inspector and shared their views about the quality of the provision.
- The inspector observed children's play, indoors and outdoors, and spoke to staff about children's learning. She also interacted with the children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with the leaders and discussed leadership matters. She checked the required documentation, including evidence of staff's suitability and training certificates.

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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