

Inspection of an outstanding school: Bloomsbury Nursery School

Bloomsbury Street, Nechells, Birmingham, West Midlands B7 5BX

Inspection date: 10 May 2023

Outcome

Bloomsbury Nursery School continues to be an outstanding school.

What is it like to attend this school?

Bloomsbury Nursery School is an exciting place to be. Children have great fun and enjoy attending. This is a calm and purposeful place. Children are happy and safe. Staff are committed to making every moment count.

Leaders set high expectations of how all children will behave. Children learn to be part of the Bloomsbury community. They learn to develop an awareness of other people's feelings. Children learn to accept the consequences of their own behaviour. The school rules are embedded in daily routines and the curriculum. Staff model and rehearse the school rules throughout the day. For example, during family time they praise children for 'good listening' or 'good sitting'. Children learn to respect each other and manage their feelings. Incidents of poor behaviour or bullying are extremely rare, and if they do happen, leaders resolve them swiftly and effectively. Children who need additional support to manage their emotions, and develop the skills of self-regulation, are supported effectively to develop a positive sense of self and make good friendships. As a result, children have confidence in their own abilities and are able to persist and persevere.

Leaders carefully select a range of visits and trips to broaden children's horizons. This includes walks in the local area, visits to the local shops and a family day out to the farm. Parents are very positive about Bloomsbury Nursery School and value the great start to their children's education.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

Leaders have designed a highly ambitious curriculum for all children. It is well planned and sequenced. Staff are very skilled and have excellent subject knowledge. They present learning well. During high-quality interactions, staff model vocabulary and skilfully re-shape tasks. There are lots of exciting activities which help children to engage deeply in their learning. For instance, children enjoy watching eggs hatch into baby chicks and caterpillars grow into butterflies. Children practise and consolidate learning in the well-planned, continuous provision. Staff check how well children are learning the curriculum

during lessons and over time. They address any gaps in learning. Children learn the curriculum exceptionally well. They get off to a great start.

Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are swiftly identified and assessed so the right help is put in place. This means that they learn confidently alongside their peers. Sign language is used throughout the provision to support communication. Learning is successfully adapted to meet the needs of all children. When needed, leaders work with services such as speech and language therapy to make sure that children get the specialist support they need. As a result of all these actions, children with SEND achieve exceptionally well.

From the moment they start, children are taught how to read. Staff are highly skilled and have the resources they need to teach well. Book, song and rhyme choices are carefully considered. Children enjoy singing songs and rhymes. During storytelling, staff engage children well to develop a love of reading. Children happily join in with repeated words and phrases. Older children learn the sounds in words and practise these when reading out loud. Consequently, children quickly learn to read. Those who fall behind are effectively supported to catch up. They are well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Children are well prepared for the world around them. Bloomsbury Nursery School proudly celebrates its diversity. Children, families and staff are able to share their knowledge and understanding of religious festivals and events, such as Eid, Chinese New Year, Diwali, Black History Month, Christmas and Easter, learning with and from one another. Children know that they have a right to talk, and they have a right to be listened to. During Black History Month, children learn about Martin Luther King and talk about their hopes, dreams and aspirations. All this helps children to recognise and respect difference.

Leaders know the school and its community extremely well. Close working partnerships with parents and the 'stay and play' provision strengthen the school's great work. Leaders, including governors, make rigorous checks on the performance of the school. Any areas for improvement are swiftly addressed. Governors are highly skilled and undertake their roles effectively.

Staff are very positive about support from leaders. For example, reiki and yoga well-being workshops are offered to all staff, to help to improve their well-being. Changes to assessment, which have reduced workload, have been welcomed.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff know their safeguarding responsibilities and are quick to notice when a child might be at risk. Leaders make sure that all staff are trained to identify and act on any concerns about a child. Leaders respond to concerns swiftly. They work closely with a range of external agencies so that any child in need of additional help gets the support they need.

Children learn about 'people who help us'. During the 'summer carnival day' people from the police and fire and ambulance service talk about their roles. Children learn about keeping safe at home and in the community.

Leaders make sure that the school environment is safe. They undertake appropriate health and safety risk assessments. Leaders make regular site safety checks. Pupils with medical needs are well supported at school. Leaders ensure all staff undertake the appropriate vetting checks prior to working at the school.

Background

When we have judged a school to be outstanding, we will then normally go into the school about once every four years to confirm that the school remains outstanding. This is called an ungraded inspection, and it is carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. We do not give graded judgements on an ungraded inspection. However, if we find evidence that a school would now receive a higher or lower grade, then the next inspection will be a graded inspection, which is carried out under section 5 of the Act. Usually this is within one to two years of the date of the ungraded inspection. If we have serious concerns about safeguarding, behaviour or the quality of education, we will deem the ungraded inspection a graded inspection immediately.

This is the second ungraded inspection since we judged the school to be outstanding in June 2013.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

Unique reference number	103138
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	10268949
Type of school	Nursery
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	2 to 5
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	129
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Tamarah March
Headteacher	Sally Davies
Website	www.bloomsburynurseryschool.co.uk
Date of previous inspection	1 February 2018, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- The school works in partnership with Goodway Nursery School. They now share the same headteacher.
- The school does not use alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: early reading (including language and communication), knowledge and understanding of the world and mathematical development. For each deep dive, the inspectors discussed the curriculum with subject leaders, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to staff, spoke to some children about their learning and looked at samples of children's work.
- Inspectors observed staff reading to children and with children. Inspectors reviewed reading resources.
- Inspectors reviewed a range of documentation on the school's website.

- Inspectors scrutinised the school’s safeguarding arrangements. This included examining the record of employment checks on school staff.
- Inspectors observed children’s behaviour in lessons and at other times during the day.
- Inspectors held meetings with the headteacher, deputy headteacher the special educational needs coordinator, the designated safeguarding leader, curriculum leaders, representatives of the governing body and a representative from the local authority.
- Inspectors took account of responses to Ofsted Parent View and staff surveys.

Inspection team

Lorraine Lord, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

Louise Minter

Ofsted Inspector

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 children looked after, 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 <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2023