

Inspection of Filkins Nursery (The Old Station Nursery Ltd)

The Old School, Filkins, LECHLADE, Gloucestershire GL7 3JJ

Inspection date: 1 July 2024

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 arrive happy and settle quickly into the nursery's familiar routines. They make strong attachments with staff, especially their key person. Staff know and understand the children very well. Children demonstrate good levels of independence as they explore the nursery environments. Staff find out relevant information, such as children's interests and care needs, as part of the settling-in arrangements. Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour. They use consistent and effective strategies to promote positive behaviour. Staff take every opportunity to praise children, however small their achievement is. This helps to promote children's self-esteem and confidence.

Staff provide a tailored and varying curriculum of activities to ensure that curiosity is fostered in children of all ages. Children investigate and explore as they develop a range of skills. For example, younger children show curiosity as they examine a variety of different textured materials and objects. They develop their small muscles and coordination as they feel the materials in their hands in wonder. Older children use many resources to develop their physical, social and imagination skills. For instance, they delight in making roads for cars. Staff capture the children's interest and extend this as they are cleverly transformed into a pretend car wash outside. Children excitedly sit on wheeled toys and queue up for their turn through the car wash. Children show a 'can-do' attitude and work well together as they risk assess the forest-school area. This supports children in learning how to keep themselves safe.

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

- Recent management and alterations to the team have seen effective changes within the nursery. The manager is committed, knowledgeable and an effective leader. Management and the staff team work closely together. They have a clear vision and carry out robust self-evaluation that considers the views of the children, parents and staff. This is accurate and drives continual improvements, which have a positive impact on the outcomes for children.
- The senior team and staff have expertly designed a curriculum to include skills that build on children's unique experiences, interests and what they know and can do. Staff interactions with children are good and they promote children's development well. This helps to inspire and engage children in their learning at nursery.
- Staff promote children's early mathematical skills well. They encourage children to count blocks they are using to build towers. Children explore many games and resources and learn to sequence and recognise numbers. They confidently use appropriate language to compare the sizes of different objects. Staff teach children the shapes of common objects.

- Staff help children's growing language and communication skills. Staff read stories and sing songs with children throughout the day. Young children select props and sing along to simple musical rhymes they have memorised. Older children demonstrate developing concentration as they take part in group time. For instance, children listen intently as staff read the book 'The Gruffalo'. Staff provide time for children to suggest what might happen next, before children excitedly hunt for characters from the story in the garden. There are many books available for children to access independently in the environment. This helps children to develop a love of books.
- Staff teach children the importance of good health. Children learn about the positive choices that contribute to healthy lifestyles. They spend a lot of time outside, where they are physically active. Staff provide a range of nutritious snacks and light meals that children enjoy. Children demonstrate good manners and personal and social skills as they sit with staff at lunchtime.
- Staff undertake mandatory training to meet requirements, such as safeguarding, food hygiene and paediatric first aid. Staff report they feel well supported to carry out their roles and maintain a healthy work and home-life balance. However, leaders do not fully focus on wider training opportunities to support staff's professional development and consider the impact the training has on the quality of education.
- Staff develop positive relationships with parents. Parents are very positive in their views. They comment that they receive plenty of good communication, support and guidance to help ensure that their children have a positive time at nursery. Parents state that their children are developing social skills and are making friends. They appreciate the additional support that staff have sought from other professionals. This includes support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- enhance wider professional development and focus specifically on reflecting on the impact the training has on the quality of education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY361061
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	10353319
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	2 to 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	40
Name of registered person	The Old Station Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP520274
Telephone number	01367 860 594
Date of previous inspection	17 June 2019

Information about this early years setting

Filkins Nursery (The Old Station Nursery Ltd) registered in 2007. The nursery operates from the old school house in the village of Filkins near Lechlade, Oxfordshire. The nursery is open for 51 weeks of the year from 8am until 6pm each weekday. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 10 staff to work with the children. Of these, five staff hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 2 or level 3, and one at level 5.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Anneliese Fox-Jones

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the setting and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- This inspection was carried out as part of a risk assessment process.
- The inspector observed activities in the two main base rooms and garden. She talked to staff about the progress that individual children are making and what they want the children to learn.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk across all areas of the nursery to understand how the early years provision and the curriculum are organised.
- A joint observation was carried out by the inspector and the manager. The inspector observed interactions between staff and the children and the impact these had on children's learning.
- The inspector reviewed relevant documentation, including the arrangements for paediatric first-aid training. The inspector had a discussion with leaders about the evaluation of the setting and plans for improvement.
- The inspector spoke to parents and children during the inspection and took account of their views.

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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