

St James Church Pre-School



St James' Church Centre, Kingfisher Drive, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire, RG5 3LH

Inspection date	17 March 2017
Previous inspection date	3 February 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff use their excellent skills to provide rich and stimulating experiences for children. Children are extremely enthusiastic learners and enjoy exploring the wide range of exciting activities that staff design. This helps children to further explore ideas and develop their imaginations.
- The manager combines her excellent understanding of how young children learn with her nurturing skills to support and develop all staff's knowledge and skills. This helps staff to plan creative and inspiring activities that help children to flourish. For example, children practised their language and counting skills when they played a game of 'pirates' on the climbing frame.
- Children have very high standards of behaviour and confidence. They help themselves to toys to extend their play. Children are very respectful and well-supported by staff to learn how to share. Staff nurture children's very high levels of emotional well-being.
- Partnerships with parents are very effective. Close working relationships help parents to be fully involved in their children's learning and care. For example, parents celebrate how confidently their children learn to be in new situations.
- The relationships between professionals and other settings, including schools the children attend, are excellent. All children make exceptional progress from their individual starting points and are very well-prepared for their next stage in learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more everyday opportunities for children to enhance their growing independence skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children at play indoors and talked with the children about their activities.
- The inspector held discussions with the supervisor in relation to observing a group learning activity and assessed the children's progress.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including suitability checks, qualifications and children's records.
- The inspector held discussions with parents, the chair and vice-chair of the committee and all staff.
- The inspector observed children at play outside.

Inspector

Heather Rushton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager is highly motivated with very high expectations. This helps the staff to constantly challenge each other to improve. The manager's very close monitoring of the key worker's knowledge and practice helps her to provide extensive training. This helps staff ensure children's progress is rapid and consistent. For example, children with additional needs attain the expected level in basic skills and excel in their physical development. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and vice-chair of the committee place a high priority on ensuring that staff's safeguarding knowledge is up to date. All staff know where to seek help for any concerns regarding children's welfare or care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff's exceptional assessments and their excellent knowledge of each child helps them to extend the adult planning effectively, developing children's own ideas. This helps children to be eager to play and learn. For example, when learning about water, children washed dolls, chose to build a car wash and visited the local lake with their parents. Staff support all children be successful in all aspects of learning. For example, they help children to hunt for mini beasts and frogs in the garden. Staff suggest different places to search, such as in the 'bug hotel', under leaves in the corners of the garden and in the soil. Children's determination was rewarded when they eventually found a worm. This very effective staff involvement helps children to learn to keep trying and not to give up.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children build very strong relationships. They settle quickly and this helps them to be happy, imaginative learners. For example, they fetch soil, leaves and small sticks to make a 'mud pie' for the 'giant' that lives over the hedge. Children play very well together and include other children in their games, such as when the 'pirates' climb into the 'castle' to explore the 'princess' treasure'. Children use high-quality language skills to organise, sequence and clarify their thinking and understanding. High standards of behaviour and staff's consistent expectations help children learn to consider others.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are extremely well-prepared for the next stage in their learning. They talk with confidence to express ideas and ask questions. For instance, in the playhouse when visiting children ask for a 'cup of tea', they are told they have to 'build a fire to heat the kettle'. Children's mathematical language skills are very well-developed. This helps them to solve problems. Children enjoy singing songs they have learnt. They run, skip, catch balls and ride on wheeled toys. They use a balance bike with confidence and skilfully ride this in the outdoor area.

Setting details

Unique reference number	148676
Local authority	Wokingham
Inspection number	1085767
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	25
Name of registered person	St James Church Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP902015
Date of previous inspection	3 February 2015
Telephone number	0118 966 2568

St James Church Pre-School registered in 1974. The pre-school operates from St James' Church in Woodley, Berkshire. It is managed by a voluntary committee. The pre-school opens four days a week during school term times. Morning sessions are from 9.15am to 11.45 am on each week day except Wednesday. Afternoon sessions are from 1pm to 3.30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three, and four years.

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.

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