

Inspection of St John's Pre-School

St. John's Church Centre, Legg Lane, WIMBORNE, Dorset BH21 1LQ

Inspection date: 17 January 2020

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Staff create an extremely welcoming, calm and nurturing environment. All children, including those new to the setting, feel safe and secure. They go about their day with great purpose, demonstrating a strong understanding of the rules and routines. Children become engaged quickly with the interesting resources that are set up to ignite their learning. Their behaviour is exemplary and their social skills are excellent. Staff genuinely enjoy playing alongside children.

Staff have high aspirations for children and value the uniqueness of each child. They work very closely with parents and other professionals to meet the individual needs of children. Staff provide very effective and sensitive support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those in receipt of additional funding. They support all children's language development, including children who speak English as an additional language. The manager has set a clear ethos for the provision and this is reflected throughout the pre-school. She is very knowledgeable about how children acquire language and she shares her expert knowledge with staff. Staff provide new words to build on children's current vocabulary during story times. However, occasionally, some children, including the most able children, are not challenged as effectively as they could be. Staff miss opportunities to build further on the children's existing skills and extend their learning.

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

- Staff track children's achievements closely. This ensures that they can plan effectively for their next steps. Children make good progress from their starting points. They are working at a level typical for their age and acquire the key skills needed for the next stage in their development and their eventual move to school.
- Children benefit from meaningful learning experiences that are planned according to their interests. This is evident as staff fully engage children in developing their imaginations during role play. Children are animated and expressive when using props as they act as hairdressers and customers in the salon. They develop an understanding of mathematics as they use pretend money to pay for the service.
- Staff provide children with excellent opportunities to develop a wide range of physical skills through challenging outdoor activities. Older children practise using their small muscles. They use scissors to chop herbs that they have grown and then use them to make potions. Younger children demonstrate high levels of physical coordination as they skilfully ride tricycles and negotiate space safely.
- Children sit together happily at lunchtime. They have excellent social skills and are extremely kind and respectful to one another. Children listen attentively to

each other and respectfully wait for their friends to finish using resources before having their turn to pour themselves a drink of water. They clear up their cups and thank the staff before going to play.

- The manager and staff take pride in the pre-school. They take effective steps to ensure children play in an extremely clean and well-maintained environment. Staff implement robust hygiene practice to help prevent the spread of infection. During group sessions, staff teach children to follow excellent personal hygiene routines.
- There is a sense of shared purpose between staff and parents. This has a very positive impact on children's well-being and the quality of the provision. For instance, parents and staff work together very closely to establish exceptionally friendly and trusting relationships. Staff have an excellent knowledge of children's backgrounds and become perceptive of their needs very quickly.
- The manager is committed to building strong links in the community and with the local schools. Children are very well prepared emotionally and socially as they regularly visit the local school in preparation for transitions.
- The manager is focused on improving the quality of the service she provides. She is a strong leader and supervises her staff well through regular one-to-one meetings and team meetings. Staff share the manager's commitment and they work together as a team to provide high-quality care and education for all. They find the manager approachable and supportive, and they speak positively about the working environment.
- Staff are keen to improve their knowledge and skills continually. For example, recent training has helped them to implement a wide range of strategies to promote communication. Staff make good use of sign language and pictures to enhance children's understanding, particularly when children are non-verbal.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff understand their responsibilities to keep children safe. The manager discusses safeguarding with staff regularly and takes effective steps to ensure their knowledge remains current. All staff have a thorough understanding of the signs that a child may be at risk of harm, and they know how to share these concerns to help keep children safe. The provider and manager follow effective recruitment procedures in order to ensure the suitability of those they employ to work with children. Comprehensive safeguarding procedures and policies are in place. These are shared with parents and are implemented effectively by the manager and the staff team.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen teaching during children's chosen play to help build on their existing skills and provide challenge, specifically for the most able children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY362707
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	10126110
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 to 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	St John's Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP527364
Telephone number	07551636231
Date of previous inspection	10 March 2016

Information about this early years setting

St John's Pre-School registered in 2007. It is a committee-run pre-school and operates from St John's Church complex situated in Wimborne, Dorset. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 9am to midday, and on Tuesday and Friday from midday to 3pm, term time only. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. There are seven members of staff, all of whom hold an early years qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rachel Cornish

Inspection activities

- The manager and the inspector carried out a learning walk.
- The manager and the inspector completed a joint observation.
- The inspector spoke with staff to find out about individual children and observed the quality of teaching and learning.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and children.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and manager.

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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