

School House Nursery

School House Nursery, School Road, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9HT



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| Inspection date | 20 January 2016 |
| Previous inspection date | 16 February 2015 |

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Good | 2 |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| | Previous inspection: | Requires Improvement | 3 |
| Effectiveness of the leadership and management | | Good | 2 |
| Quality of teaching, learning and assessment | | Good | 2 |
| Personal development, behaviour and welfare | | Good | 2 |
| Outcomes for children | | Good | 2 |

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager, committee and staff have successfully addressed the actions and recommendations raised at the previous inspection. They regularly evaluate their practice and quality of teaching to maintain continuous improvement.
- The staff have a good understanding of how children learn and develop. They accurately assess and monitor children's achievements to support their individual next steps in learning. Staff plan activities that interest and motivate children to learn. All children make good progress.
- Partnerships with parents are very effective. Staff regularly update parents on their children's progress and welcome their contribution towards assessments of children's development. Parents speak highly of their experience of the nursery and the support they receive from staff.
- Children's emotional well-being is effectively supported. They are happy, confident and behave well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, children are not able to take their time to think about and respond to questions.
- Staff do not always make the best possible use of all areas of the nursery, particularly to support those children who learn better outside.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the use of questioning to help children further develop their thinking skills
- continue to widen further the range of learning experiences for children, particularly for those who prefer to learn outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents, staff and children during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and the chair of the committee, and looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery, risk assessments and staff training records.
- The inspector looked at children's records and planning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

June Keeler

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The new manager demonstrates an ambitious drive to raise outcomes for children. She monitors their progress well to identify any gaps in their learning and arranges additional support if needed. Staff understand their role in protecting children from harm. They are aware of what to do should they have any concerns about children's welfare. Safeguarding is effective. Staff complete daily risk assessments to identify and minimise all possible hazards to children. Robust recruitment procedures ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. Staff and students receive good mentoring and coaching from the manager and regular opportunities to attend further training. Staff share their new childcare knowledge with their colleagues. This helps to improve children's learning and experiences. The manager and staff have established positive relationships with the local school and other providers, such as childminders.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff play alongside children and show interest in what they are doing. For example, while children make lemonade and cakes from dough, staff join in and pretend to eat the cakes. Children enjoy role play and discuss what size clothes they need to fit over their coats. Books are readily available for children to enjoy at the nursery or at home. Children have opportunities to use their senses to explore. For example, they enjoy making marks in shaving foam. They practise their writing and drawing skills and talk confidently about their pictures. Staff encourage parents to visit the nursery and share their skills, experiences and cultures. This helps children to develop their understanding of the wider world.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children arrive happy and are eager to start playing. They develop good levels of confidence and independence. Staff encourage children to put on their own coats and shoes. Children help to tidy up resources and serve themselves food and drink at snack time. Staff encourage children to share, take turns and play respectfully together. Parents provide detailed information about their children's interests when they first start at the nursery. Staff use this information to help support children to settle quickly in their new environment. Children's emotional and physical well-being is supported effectively.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in relation to their starting points. They develop the key skills they need in readiness for school. Children are confident learners who are keen to engage in the activities on offer.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | 127521 |
| Local authority | Kent |
| Inspection number | 1023566 |
| Type of provision | Full-time provision |
| Day care type | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Registers | Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register |
| Age range of children | 1 - 6 |
| Total number of places | 23 |
| Number of children on roll | 50 |
| Name of provider | School House Nursery (Sandwich) Ltd |
| Date of previous inspection | 16 February 2015 |
| Telephone number | 01304 615250 |

School House Nursery registered in 1992. It is situated in the grounds of Sandwich Infant School, Kent. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm for most of the year, except for bank holidays and a week at Christmas. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The provider receives early years pupil premium funding. There are six members of staff employed, all of whom have appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is qualified to level 6 and another holds a qualification at level 5.

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