

Inspection of Strawberry Fields Nursery School Limited

Notting Hill Community Church, Kensington Park Road, LONDON W11 2ES

Inspection date:

12 September 2024

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children are highly confident to say goodbye to their parents and carers at the gate. They quickly re-establish their routine following the summer holidays and demonstrate they have retained their knowledge of how to behave. New children are exceptionally well supported to settle in. The setting has an extremely flexible approach to settling new children in that prioritises children's emotional well-being. Staff expertly identify children's emotional needs and tailor their interactions to build a trusting relationship with each child.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. Older children play cooperatively together with space-themed toys. They are highly respectful of each other and listen to each other's ideas for building a rocket ship. Staff plan exciting science experiments that stimulate children's feelings of awe and wonder. They skilfully use questions to encourage children to predict what will happen next. Children are highly motivated to join in with the planned activities that stimulate their interest. Pre-school children are inspired by famous artists to develop their creativity and create space-themed artworks of their own.

Leaders and managers are highly ambitious for children's learning. They recognise the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children's development and place a strong focus on children's communication and language development and personal, social and emotional development. Staff consistently challenge children to extend their vocabulary from a young age. For example, toddlers learn the names of sea creatures, such as 'seal' and 'jellyfish'.

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

- Staff are highly enthusiastic about what they teach children. They skilfully use children's favourite stories to engage them in meaningful play. They bring books to life by dressing up as characters from the book. Children are consistently engrossed in a variety of themed activities, such as making characters from the book out of play dough. Children consistently demonstrate extremely positive attitudes to learning.
- Children are extremely well behaved. Older children learn to put their hand up and wait to speak during group activities. They demonstrate very good levels of self-control. Children recognise the impact of their behaviour on others. For example, they share popular toys when they notice a friend wants to join in their play.
- Children are highly independent. From a young age, children learn to use tools, such as cutlery, with great skill and control. For example, toddlers use a knife with great care to spread humous on their bread at snack time. Children master skills for later life and make excellent progress.

- Children develop excellent levels of communication and language ability. Staff demonstrate an expert understanding of how to support children's language development. For example, they use repeated words and phrases and give children plenty of time to respond to questions. Staff use mealtimes to engage older children in conversation about their packed lunch. As a result, children are highly confident when speaking to others and articulate themselves exceptionally well.
- Staff plan highly challenging experiences for children to develop their physical skills. Younger children develop skills beyond their expected level. For example, they expertly use tweezers to pick up small objects. Older children develop their coordination further to skilfully use a hammer and nails. Children learn to control their movements extremely well.
- Leaders and managers are highly supportive of the staff team. Staff are highly qualified and have expert knowledge of young children's learning and developmental needs. Leaders and managers are strong role models for new staff and give staff regular feedback and guidance. As a result, the setting maintains an extremely high level of care and learning for children.
- The whole staff team develops excellent partnerships with parents and carers. Parents highly praise the staff and say they see their children make amazing progress as a result of attending the setting. Staff share ideas for further learning at home so children's development is consistently challenged.
- Leaders and managers provide children with a variety of opportunities to develop an understanding of their local community. For example, children are actively involved in events to raise money for local charities. They deepen their knowledge about others in the local community and learn about the world around them. Staff support children to develop their character exceptionally well, teaching children to be thoughtful, caring, kind and considerate of others.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY456623
Local authority	Kensington and Chelsea
Inspection number	10351565
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	70
Number of children on roll	113
Name of registered person	Strawberry Fields Nursery School Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP907354
Telephone number	02077278363
Date of previous inspection	25 September 2018

Information about this early years setting

Strawberry Fields Nursery School Limited first opened in 1986. It re-registered in 2006 at the current premises and in 2012 due to a change in the ownership. It is located in Notting Hill, in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It operates each weekday, during term time only. Morning sessions run from 9am to midday, and afternoon sessions run from 12.45pm to 3.45pm. All-day sessions run from 9am to 3.45pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs 13 staff, including the manager. Of these, 12 staff hold relevant qualifications equivalent to level 3 or above. Four staff, including the manager, hold qualified teacher status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Kyrstie Gennoe

Inspection activities

- The deputy headteacher joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy doing while at the setting.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector and the deputy headteacher carried out joint observations of group activities.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.

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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Piccadilly Gate
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