

Sandleford St Gabriel's

St. Gabriels School, Sandleford Priory, Newtown Road, Newtown, NEWBURY,
Berkshire, RG20 9BD



Inspection date	15 May 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 nursery staff work in strong partnerships with staff in the linked school. For example, the Reception teacher visits the nursery regularly and takes part in activities with the children to form close relationships with them from an early stage.
- Staff provide a welcoming and friendly environment. Children show close relationships with staff, for instance, babies reach out to staff and give them a cuddle.
- Children develop their independence well. For example, babies and toddlers help themselves to drinks when they are thirsty. Older children serve their own lunches and pour their own drinks at mealtimes.
- The manager supervises staff very well. She meets with them regularly to discuss their progress and books relevant training for them that supports their roles and responsibilities effectively.
- All children make good progress in their development, given their starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some staff do not fully use good opportunities to encourage children to share their thoughts and ideas during discussions and in play.
- Staff sometimes do not have precise developmental information about children in order to plan highly effectively for their ongoing progress when their key person is absent.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the questioning techniques used by staff to give children more opportunities to share their knowledge and thoughts
- review arrangements so that when key people are not present other staff have detailed information about children's development, to plan very effectively for their ongoing progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with the children, staff, school principal, Human Resources advisor, school Reception teacher and the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and through written feedback.
- The inspector looked at a range of relevant documentation relating to safeguarding and staff suitability, as well as policies, procedures and children's records.

Inspector

Helen Harnew

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and leadership team have high expectations for the nursery. They work closely with other professionals, such as managers of other local settings, to share good practice. The manager seeks the views of parents, staff and other professionals to help her to identify the provision's key strengths and areas to improve. She makes good use of their suggestions to make future improvements to the nursery environments. For example, the pre-school areas and garden have been extended to provide larger spaces for children to engage in all areas of learning. Staff use their new learning gained from training effectively to help to improve outcomes for children. For example, they arranged more cosy areas to offer comfortable spaces for children to share and increase their interest in books. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a clear understanding of what to do and who to contact if they have concerns about a child's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan a wide range of experiences and use of resources around children's interests. For example, babies enjoy playing with a range of toy animals and staff introduce names and noises of the animals. Older children learn about how armbands help them to float in water. Staff plan exciting opportunities for children to learn about growth. For instance, children water the flowers they have planted to help them to grow. Parents share positive comments about the nursery. For example, they feel that staff keep them well informed about their children's progress. Staff encourage parents to share details of children's learning at home regularly and they use key information to inform assessments about their progress and their next steps in learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are active learners. For example, babies move freely around the room and garden using equipment, such as walkers and push-along cars. Older children climb ladders to slides and enjoy taking part in music and movement sessions. Staff remind children of rules, such as not running in the room, to help them begin to learn about keeping safe. Children behave well. They share and take turns, with occasional reminders from staff. Children learn new self-help skills in preparation for their move on to school. For example, children learn to wipe their own noses and wash their hands straight afterwards to prevent the spread of infection.

Outcomes for children are good

All children develop well in each area of learning. They begin to recognise familiar letters in their names as they search for their placemats and peg labels. Babies and toddlers join in with number songs and older children write numbers with sticks in sand. Children access tools, such as pencils and crayons, to practise their early writing skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY482888
Local authority	West Berkshire (Newbury)
Inspection number	1086323
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	98
Number of children on roll	97
Name of registered person	The St Gabriel Schools Foundation
Registered person unique reference number	RP534099
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01635555680

Sandleford St Gabriel's registered in 2014. The nursery operates from purpose-built, self-contained accommodation within St Gabriel's School. The nursery opens from 7.30am to 6.30pm on Monday to Friday, 50 weeks of the year, excluding bank holidays. There are 13 members of staff, all of whom have relevant early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including the manager who has early years teacher status. The nursery provides funded education for three and four-year-old children.

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