

# Southover Nursery School

Southover Church Hall, St. James Street, Lewes, Sussex, BN7 1HR



## Inspection date

12 July 2017

Previous inspection date

11 September 2013

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	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

- Teaching is exemplary. Highly qualified staff use their exceptional skills and expertise extremely well. They complete meticulous observations, assessments and planning to support children's rapid progress in readiness for school.
- The manager follows rigorous systems of performance management through which she supports staff hugely in their professional development. This includes providing excellent opportunities for them to achieve higher qualifications or to attend training which they can use to improve the outcomes for the children.
- Children are highly focused and extremely eager to participate in the wealth of learning opportunities that are offered. They are very enthusiastic and enjoy exploring their environment, inside and outside.
- The significantly strong partnerships with parents and other settings children attend have an excellent impact on their successful learning. Staff consistently keep parents fully informed of children's progress and provide exceptional guidance to further support learning at home.
- Staff work particularly well with other professionals to improve outcomes for children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. They seize opportunities to complete specialist programmes, which helps to enrich their understanding of how best to support children's social and communication needs.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to use the highly accurate evaluation methods and auditing tools to drive improvement even further.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day of inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including staff suitability checks; self-assessment information; children's observation, assessment and planning records; and documentation linked to monitoring children's progress.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held discussions with the manager.

### Inspector

Shan Jones

## Inspection findings

### **Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding**

Managers highly value the staff team and demonstrate excellent leadership skills. Children's interests are at the forefront of planning and their views are listened to. Frequent monitoring by managers of children's progress highlights delays in learning, and staff take prompt action to close these gaps. Self-evaluation is comprehensive, continually developing and includes the views of parents, children and staff. This helps to maintain the high-quality standards and continuous development. Safeguarding is effective. All staff have a rigorous and thorough understanding of child protection. They are aware of their responsibilities, any emerging safeguarding issues that may affect children in their care, and procedures for reporting any concerns about a child's welfare.

### **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding**

Stimulating and challenging activities provided by staff capture children's imaginations, enthuse them and ignite their curiosity. Children relish the sensory experiences in soil and water. Staff use a wide range of strategies, including thoughtful questions and well-chosen vocabulary to deepen and secure children's learning. Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language are particularly well supported by staff. They thoroughly enjoy highly individualised activities that reflect their interests and abilities. These capture their attention and they learn to concentrate, explore and communicate extremely well.

### **Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding**

Key persons know their children exceptionally well and act as wonderful role models. They constantly praise children's achievements and exemplary behaviour. Children show excellent high levels of self-esteem. Staff provide a wealth of experiences to help children learn about different people and their needs in the local community. For example, children visited an elderly people's home and shared their paintings and sung nursery rhymes. Staff are exceptionally skilled at encouraging children to 'have a go' and try new experiences. For example, children worked cooperatively together, safely supported by staff, to design and build a bonfire with logs. Children quickly become extremely confident at balancing and crawling through tunnels during planned indoor physical play sessions.

### **Outcomes for children are outstanding**

All children make excellent progress and rapidly develop the skills that support their learning and prepare them for school. Children show high levels of curiosity in their play. They search for bugs, such as snails, and care for them by providing grass and small flowers to eat. Children use careful thought processes as they tackle challenges. For instance, they make decisions on how to catch the balls they roll down the guttering tubes, choosing which sized basket would be suitable to use.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY459966
<b>Local authority</b>	East Sussex
<b>Inspection number</b>	1063376
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	24
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	38
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Sara Kathryn Hall
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP909734
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	11 September 2013
<b>Telephone number</b>	01273486435

Southover Nursery School registered in 2013. It is open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8.30am to 3pm, and on Thursday and Friday from 8.30am to 12.30pm, during term time only. The nursery school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are eight members of staff, four of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and two staff have qualified teacher status.

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