

St Aubyns School

Inspection report for early years provision

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Type of inspection	Nursery Education

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ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The provider must give a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must give a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Day Care and Childminding (inspection) (England) Regulations 2005 No 2300 Regulations 5 and 6).

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St Aubyns School was founded in 1895 and is located in the village of Rottingdean, in Brighton & Hove. The funded places at St Aubyns School form part of an

independent school registered with the Department for Education and Skills, educating children aged three to 13 years of age.

The nursery unit within the school opened in 2002. Children have access to a range of classrooms within the school and a separate outside area within the school grounds. There are currently 27 funded children on roll. The staff team includes one reception teacher, who has qualified teacher status and five nursery staff, most of whom have early years qualifications. The nursery is open from 08.00 to 15.20 Monday to Friday during term time only. The school also provides after school care from 15.20 to 17.30.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The teaching and learning is outstanding. Children are successfully guided to enjoy their learning and take part in a highly effective and extremely well planned learning programme. Staff have a confident and robust knowledge of all six learning areas and provide an excellent range of challenging play and learning activities. Staff follow clearly prepared learning themes that are highly successful in supporting children's development with numbers, writing and learning to communicate. Staff are receptive to children's interests and during all the activities, children are effectively encouraged to explore and extend their play and learning. Staff are also highly effective at questioning children to encourage and enhance their thinking and understanding of the world around them. Children achieve strong learning confidence and gain skills easily, supported by many close adult interactions and sustained support from their staff key workers. Children are also helped to be inventive and creative with their own play, with many good quality opportunities for play and learning provided in the setting's outdoor area. Staff are assured and highly motivated teachers, strongly committed to helping children enjoy their play and learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The partnership with parents is outstanding. The inclusion and involvement of parents is highly effective within this setting. Clear and detailed information is provided on the early learning programme and wide range of learning activities. Staff keep clear and consistent observation notes of individual children's learning progress, which parents may see and discuss. Parents can also access their children's individual development records and spend time with their children's key worker. The setting has produced highly effective written support guidance for parents, particularly on how literacy is encouraged within the setting and how to raise concerns. Parents

have access to a highly effective and well organised parents' notice board, that informs them and encourages their involvement in the children's learning activities. The setting pays particular attention to supporting children's personal and social development. Children learn to share, take turns, be helpful to others and their social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is fostered.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The leadership and management is outstanding. The setting has an impressive and clearly set out learning programme that is highly effective in supporting children's learning development. Much care has been taken to ensure the six learning areas are fully explored and the setting's planning is exceptionally thorough. Precise written guidance is provided for staff on the presentation of learning activities and the organisation of resources is excellent. Staff are confident and highly motivated and carry out frequent observations of individual children's learning progress. Staff are flexible and supportive and are highly effective at organising their time to support individual children's achievement. Staff consistently review and revise the setting's learning programme to ensure its high quality is maintained. The setting's supervisor provides clear and confident leadership which ensures staff are highly successful in organising children's learning and development.

Improvements since the last inspection

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Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2473)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk