

# Hampstead Hill School Early Years

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY356473
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 June 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Maria Therese Conroy / Daphne Prescott
<b>Setting Address</b>	St. Stephens Hall, Pond Street, London, NW3 2PP
<b>Telephone number</b>	02074 356 262
<b>E-mail</b>	office@hampsteadhillschool.co.uk
<b>Registered person</b>	Hampstead Hill Group
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day care, Out of School care

## 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 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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Hampstead Hill School was registered in 2007. The school is privately owned and is situated in Hampstead in the London Borough of Camden. The school is an independent co-educational school, which is open all year round from 07:45 to 17:30 with the exception of one week at Christmas. The school provides an out of school club and holiday play scheme which is open to children who attend the school. The setting operates from St Stephens Hall and is registered to take 189 children from two years to under eight years. There are currently 339 children on roll. Children are organised into groups according to their age and stage of development. Each class has a base room and use of additional rooms throughout the school for other activities such as music and physical activities. In addition the children have access to two outdoor enclosed areas. The staff who teach and care for the children at the setting hold a relevant qualification and those who assist have experience of working with children.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

First aid and medical needs are attended to as a number of staff hold a first aid qualification. Written parental permission is acquired at the time of enrolment to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical treatment, which ensures that parents' wishes are taken into account should a serious accident occur. A record of accidents is maintained and parents are verbally informed, however, no written acknowledgement is obtained from parents to confirm they have been fully updated. The procedures and recording systems in place for administration of medication are not transparent and therefore staff are not consistent in their practices.

Children have good opportunities to learn about keeping themselves healthy through the planned activities available. For example, during cooking activities children are learning that sugar is bad for their teeth and they know why they must drink water throughout the day particularly during the hot weather. Children are generally encouraged to have good hygiene practices throughout their daily routine. For example, they know why they have to wash their hands before eating snack and before cooking activities. Staff practices do not always reflect the hygiene procedures that are in place, for example, nappy changing procedures and the storage of children's bed linen, therefore, children are not fully protected from the spread of cross infection.

Children are encouraged to eat healthily through the well planned menus in place. They enjoy their food as they take part in a sociable occasion with their friends. Younger children are supported by staff to become independent during meal times and have suitable utensils to enable them to do so. Children are provided with mid morning and mid afternoon snack and drinking water is available throughout the day.

Children have regular opportunities to take part in planned activities to promote their physical development. They enjoy digging in the sand, climbing on the jungle gym and pedalling bikes. Children enjoy taking part in obstacle courses as they crawl through the tunnel, balance and throw bean bags into the basket provided. Children are developing their fine motor skills when they use pencils, paint brushes and cut with scissors.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is inadequate.

Risk assessments are undertaken on the building, activities provided and off site activities. However, the hazards in relation to security of the main entrance have not been addressed and therefore children's safety is at risk. Staff are deployed effectively within the classroom area to ensure that children are well supervised and regular head counts are undertaken as the children move from one area to another. The equipment used by the children is of good quality and appropriate to the ages of the children attending. Fire safety procedures are satisfactory; fire extinguishers are checked on a regular basis, smoke alarms are in place and regular fire evacuation practises are undertaken, however, the information recording fire drills lacks detail.

The areas used by the children are generally safe. The entrance hall is made welcoming to parents by means of colourful displays and notice boards. Each individual room used by the children is also bright and welcoming with information relevant to the children in that class, including displays of children's work highlighting the topics they have covered. The setting has

taken steps to make the areas used by very young children appropriate to their needs, for example, a low level hand rail on the steps leading to their class room and child sized toilets and wash hand basins. Although there are a number of toilet facilities available throughout the school, the way in which they are organised does not ensure that the dignity and privacy of children is respected.

Children's welfare is protected because staff are clear on the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures to be followed in the event of having to make a child protection referral. Written safeguarding procedures are in place, however, the procedures for allegations against members of staff lack some of the necessary details, although this is currently being updated.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a range of suitable activities to promote their all round developmental progress. They enjoy taking part in a wide selection of both indoor and outdoor play and make full use of the different areas available throughout the school. Staff use the Birth to three matters guidance as framework for planning; they observe children and use the information to plan for children's next steps in learning. Staff are warm and affectionate with children and offer cuddles and reassurance when needed.

Children enjoy cooking activities, for example, when they make flapjacks. They discuss what they are doing and talk about how they mix butter and syrup with the oats to make the ingredients stick together. Children are very excited as watch the syrup being poured out, they tell the teacher that 'the syrup is dancing on the spoon'. Staff use open ended questioning throughout the activities to encourage children to think for themselves.

Children participate in imaginative play activities for example they have a lovely time as they wash their dolls with the bubbles in the water tray outside in the garden. Children take part in a varied selection of creative activities, such as finger paints, printing and paper mâché. They enjoy making play dough and exploring the texture once it has been made.

Children generally enjoy listening to stories, however, the organisation of story time is not fully effective as the group is too large and very young children become distracted. Children take pleasure in singing familiar songs and rhymes with enthusiasm, such as the wheels on the bus and the ABC song.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern; staff are aware of their individual needs because parents share information with the school such as dietary needs and allergies. Children have access to a wide range of activities which are accessible to all the children. They are learning about the wider world through planned activities, such as art and craft work and through the positive images that are reflected in the resources they use. The school works with parents and outside agencies to support children who have specific requirements.

Children are generally well behaved, they are encourage to share, turn take and be kind to one another. Staff encourage children to have good manners and say please and thank-you, they use appropriate methods of discipline such as distraction for younger children and time out if necessary. The behaviour management policy in place does not reflect current practice and is

not relevant for very young children, however, this is being reviewed and updated. Staff are sensitive to children's needs and children are continually praised throughout the day for their achievements.

The school works in partnership with parents. They are given a welcome pack at the beginning of their placement, which contains some of the policies and procedures including the steps to be taken in the event of a complaint. Parents are kept updated about their child's progress through formal reports at the end of the year; in addition, every Friday, staff display photographic evidence of children taking part in the various activities throughout the week. Parents confirm they are happy with the care their children receive, they find the staff approachable and the principal sensitive to meeting the needs of the children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The systems in place to record the daily attendance for both staff and children on the premises, are not adequately maintained, which is a breach of regulation and compromises children's safety. The recruitment and vetting procedures in place are not fully robust because they do not currently include assessment of medical suitability effectively. Staff undertake induction training which informs them of the way the setting operates and covers health and safety information, in addition staff have access to further training both internally and externally.

There are suitable contingency arrangements in place for staff absences and emergencies to ensure that the ratios are maintained. Policies and procedures are currently being reviewed and updated by the senior staff. Documentation is stored appropriately, for example, confidential information cannot be accessed by unauthorised people. Senior staff have specific roles and responsibilities, however, these are not always evenly distributed and therefore they can not be undertaken effectively, this results in lack of clarity and continuity among the staff team in relation to their practice.

The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

In April 2008 a concern was raised about safeguarding and staff suitability. This concern related to National Standard 1: Suitable Person. Ofsted liaised with an external agency and conducted an unannounced visit. Two actions were set under National Standard: 13 to 'ensure that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and includes procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer' and 'draw up an action plan showing how the designated member of staff for child protection will have the relevant skills and knowledge to implement the child protection policy effectively'. A response was received and Ofsted took no further action. The provider remained qualified for registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

#### The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that the systems in place for recruitment and vetting include effective procedures for checking medical suitability of the staff who will work with children
- maintain a daily record of the names of the children looked after on the premises, their hours of attendance and the names of the persons who looked after them
- assess the risks to children in relation to the main entrance and take action to minimise these

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)