FAIRSTEAD HOUSE

Nursery Ofsted Report

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

SUMMER 2022

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EXCEPTIONAL PROVISION

HEADLINES OF THE REPORT:

- Children thoroughly enjoy their time in this exceptionally welcoming and nurturing nursery.
- Staff meet the unique needs of the children, helping ensure that every child makes exceptionally good progress.
- Staff are highly effective, ensuring that equality and inclusion are at the heart of everything they do with the children.
- Staff talk to children in a calm and respectful manner, providing a running commentary about what they are doing.
- Exceptionally caring relationships have been established between the children and staff, helping children to feel extremely happy and secure.
- Staff fully promote children's independence.
- Staff are committed to working together with parents, encouraging them to remain actively involved in their children's learning.
- Staff are extremely enthusiastic and motivated, working very well as a friendly and supportive team.
- The manager demonstrates an exceptionally strong commitment to continuous improvement and working towards excellence in all areas.

A FANTASTIC TEAM

Inspection of Fairstead House Nursery

Fairstead House School, Fordham Road, Newmarket CB8 7AA

Inspection date:	18 July 2022

Overall effectiveness	**Outstanding**
The quality of education	**Outstanding**
Behaviour and attitudes	**Outstanding**
Personal development	**Outstanding**
Leadership and management	**Outstanding**
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Babies and toddlers come into the nursery readily. As staff greet them at the gate, children eagerly reach out to them and snuggle into their arms. Children thoroughly enjoy their time in this exceptionally welcoming and nurturing nursery. They develop extremely close emotional attachments to staff, confidently seeking them out for reassurance and to engage in their play. Staff ensure that children are busy and safe as they play. For example, during inspection, staff made the decision not to take younger babies outside to play, and older babies went outside early in the day due to the extremely hot weather conditions.

Children develop a very positive attitude to their play and learning. They confidently choose what they want to play with. Staff are led by what children want to do, readily moving on when children tire of an activity. Even very young children sit attentively and concentrate during whole-group activities. They delight in choosing an item from the 'tap, tap box', and attempt to join in as staff sing a rhyme associated with the item. Children respond positively to the high expectations of staff and make rapid progress in all areas of learning.

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

- Staff meet the unique needs of the children, helping ensure that every child makes exceptionally good progress. Staff skilfully support children in purposeful play. Children benefit from interesting resources that promote their natural instincts to discover and explore. For example, young babies thoroughly enjoy exploring the texture of cereals in a tray and using their sense of smell, touch and taste.
- Older babies explore the texture of paint and are supported to make marks using brushes. When some children choose to slap their hands in the paint, they are encouraged to explore how it feels. Staff are highly effective, ensuring that equality and inclusion are at the heart of everything they do with the children. All children are able to participate in activities at their own level.
- Staff talk to children in a calm and respectful manner, gently reminding them about the need to share and take turns with popular resources. Children learn to behave well and respond positively to the high expectations of staff. Staff support children's self-esteem well. Babies beam with delight as staff give meaningful praise for their efforts.
- Staff chat to the children all of the time, providing a running commentary about what they are doing, introducing new vocabulary and encouraging children to communicate effectively. They respond exceptionally well to the babbles and gestures of babies.
- Staff help children develop a highly positive sense of themselves. Exceptionally caring relationships have been established between the children and staff,

helping children to feel extremely happy and secure. Staff know the children very well. They know about children's home lives and talk to them about their families, significantly enhancing their sense of belonging.

- Children are helped to learn about the importance of good hygiene routines. They are supported to manage their personal hygiene needs relevant to their age and stage of development. Staff fully promote children's independence.
- Staff are committed to working together with parents. They respect parents as their child's key educator. They encourage parents to remain actively involved in their children's learning, both in the nursery and at home. Parents are highly satisfied with the service provided. They describe staff as 'a fantastic team', and thoroughly appreciate the 'love and care' shown to their children.
- The manager implements an effective programme of supervision for all staff to manage their performance and support their well-being effectively. Staff are extremely enthusiastic and motivated. They work very well as a friendly and supportive team. Staff have opportunities to further their professional development. For example, a member of staff has qualified as an early years teacher while employed by the nursery.
- The manager is fully aware of the strengths of the setting. She demonstrates an exceptionally strong commitment to continuous improvement and working towards excellence in all areas. She has high expectations for the nursery, leading to an exceptional provision and outcomes for children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff demonstrate extensive knowledge of how to safeguard children. They are fully aware of the indicators of abuse and know how to report concerns. Staff are clear that the safety and welfare of children is of the utmost priority. There are robust recruitment and selection procedures in place to help ensure that those working with children are suitable for their role. Staff are confident about what they should do if they have a concern about a colleague.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY543855
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	10232558
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 1
Total number of places	21
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	Fairstead House School Trust Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP543854
Telephone number	01638 662318
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Fairstead House Nursery registered in 2017. Children under the age of two years are covered by this Ofsted registration. Children over two years of age form part of the school's registration. The provision for children over the age of two years is inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. Nine childcare staff work with the children under two years of age, including one member of staff who is a bank staff member. Eight staff hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 or above, including an early years teacher. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Jacqui Mason

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the nursery.
- The manager and the inspector completed a tour of the setting to help the inspector understand how the early years provision and the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities, and assessed the impact this had on children's learning.
- Staff spoke with the inspector at appropriate times throughout the inspection. The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of written testimonials.

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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The Ofsted report is an excellent testament to the incredible Nursery and the dedicated staff team that make it such an exceptional place. The care, nurture and enthusiasm provide an inspiring environment, which continues throughout Fairstead House school, creating a wonderfully unique education for all pupils.

QUOTE FROM THE HEAD, MICHAEL RADFORD

I'm absolutely delighted with our outstanding Ofsted report. It really captures the special qualities of the nurturing yet stimulating environment that we provide across the whole age range. I'm so proud of the whole team who work so hard to offer this exceptional provision for all our children and families.

QUOTE FROM THE NURSERY MANAGER, LUCIE MELEN

LOOKING AHEAD

The 'outstanding' foundations laid down in the earliest years of the Nursery's provision are built upon as our children progress through their Fairstead House experience. The same sense of care, inclusion, creativity, security and passion are evident from Foals 1 until a pupil's final day in Year 6.

All our children at Fairstead House School, without exception, enjoy:

- Access to an inventive and engaging curriculum which includes specialist teaching in Music, Drama, Science and Sport. There are trips off-site to places of interest (which enrich their learning) and on-site visits and workshops delivered by experts (and of course, plenty of chances to dress up as a Roman, Egyptian or favourite story book character).
- The attentions of a staff team who love to teach and who take pride in and pleasure from seeing their pupils develop.
- Whole school events such as the Art Day and Sports Challenge which enhance the sense of community which is evident amongst pupils, staff and parents.
- The chance to perform in school plays and concerts to parents, to other year groups and to local community organisations. Every pupil is encouraged to take part. There is a role for everyone!
- The opportunity to represent their school in sports fixtures against other local schools.
- Access to the facilities and expertise available to them within the King's Ely Family of Schools including extended sports coaching, shared services in Ely Cathedral and special Food and Technology Days.
- The programme of fun events organised and hosted by our Parents' Association who work closely with the school to enhance the overall experience of every pupil.

The Head, and staff at Fairstead House welcome the opportunity to guide your child through their entire Junior School adventure.

www.fairsteadhouse.co.uk

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Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider