



# Handcross Park School

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY331321
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 September 2006
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<b>Registered person</b>	Newells School Trust Ltd
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Handcross Park School Out of School Club is situated in the Secret Garden area of the school. The facility operates during term time from 08.00 to 09:00 and 15:30 to 18.00 hours, serving children aged from five years to under eight years, who attend the school. There are currently 44 children on roll and 12 were present on the day of inspection. The setting will expand in the near future to include the nursery care of younger children aged two, when the opening hours will also extend.

The children in the out of school club have access to a large hall, toilet facilities and two classrooms and a large outdoor area for outside play. They also have part of the

school dining room for use of the children attending the breakfast club.

Three staff work with the children, one of whom has an appropriate qualification. All are highly experienced at working with the age group. They all have current first aid certificates and have received child protection training.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment. They follow well-established routines for hand-washing and have easy access to liquid soap and paper towels. Medication and accident reports are correctly maintained which safeguards children's welfare. Staff maintain their first aid certificates in line with good practice. Children are offered a snack during the after school club which includes some healthy options, but sandwich fillings may include jam, and biscuits are offered, meaning that children are not given consistently nutritious food. Parents may not be informed of this as the sample menu does not list any of these items. Children are offered low-sugar squash to drink with their snack. Staff have a comprehensive list of any allergies or dietary requirements to ensure that children do not receive inappropriate food. Staff also stay close by and chat with the children while they eat which makes snack time a sociable time as well.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a section of the pre-prep school which provides a child-centred place to play. The rooms are bright and attractive with sufficient chairs and tables for all children to find space. Equipment is stored nearby and children can ask for any further equipment, giving them choice in what they do. Children also have access to an extensive outdoor area which is suitable for play all year round.

Children's safety is maintained with an extensive written risk assessment and staff are careful to ensure that children understand how to play safely. Fire drills are carried out by the school so that all children are aware of what to do in an emergency. The front entrance is locked with a buzzer-entry system, and any adults coming through the school grounds can be seen before they reach the setting and challenged if necessary. Children are supervised at all times within the setting and are only released to those who are authorised by the parents as collectors.

The child protection policy and procedures meet the standard and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities. All staff have had training and understand that the child's welfare is paramount.

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

The provision is good.

Staff plan to provide a good range of resources and materials and within these children choose what they want to do. Children are skilled at devising their own games and co-operate with each other to establish rules in their play. Staff facilitate children's ideas and requests which ensures that children are busy and interested in what they do. Children take responsibility in the setting and help to tidy up and clear away the equipment. Children enjoy using the outdoor area and have an excellent range of equipment on hand to use in a variety of ways, including small world play or construction, as well as physical play items.

Children have good relationships with the staff who pay close attention to children's interaction and manners. Children arrive happily and quickly settle. They are confident and enjoy playing with their friends.

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

The provision is good.

Staff know children well and are quick to respond to the children when they request help or want to chat. The staff and children reflect a diverse community, and there is a robust equal opportunities policy which promotes respect and challenges racism. The facilities are accessible to those with mobility impairments and staff are aware of any special needs that a child may have.

Children are well-behaved and know the boundaries because staff have clear and consistent expectations of them based on the school policy. Any disputes about turn-taking or sharing are resolved by the children themselves or with a quick word from staff, meaning that children are able to get on with their play happily. Staff are always on hand, giving praise and support in a positive way.

Parents receive good quality information about the out of school provision and there is a noticeboard in the entrance hall holding basic information. Staff are on hand when parents arrive to share any information about the child's time in the setting which helps to promote consistent care. Parents value the service and appreciate the fact that their children have time to rest and play.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. It is run by the school who organise all recruitment, the vetting of staff and ongoing appraisal systems. All staff share the playwork philosophy that they are facilitating the children's leisure time. While none of the staff has a playwork qualification, one does have a childcare qualification and all are very experienced and skilled with the age-group. The staff team communicate well to ensure that children have good supervision whether in or out of doors, and the staff-child ratios are met at all times. The register is an accurate reflection of children's arrival and departure times and children are signed out as they leave.

Policies and procedures are the same as those for the school and are maintained in line with best practice. Record keeping is methodical and efficient and includes details of staff, visitors and children's attendance.

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

Not applicable

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

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 good. The registered person meets 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 further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that children are offered only healthy options at snack times and that the menu is accurate.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)