



## **St Michael's Out of School Club**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	218377
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 June 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Rosemary Linda Tomkins
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<b>Registered person</b>	St Michael's Out of Scholl Club Committee
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St Michael's Out of School Club opened in 1996. It is managed by voluntary committee, made up of parents of children at the club and operates from the hall and a small room in St Michael's Church of England First School in Penkridge, Staffordshire. A maximum of 24 children may attend the club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 08.00 to 09.15 and 15.15 to 17.30 during school term times. All children share access to secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 20 children from four to eleven years on roll. Children attend from the school and Penkridge Middle School. The club currently supports children with

learning difficulties and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The club employs seven members of staff. Of these, three have appropriate early years qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The manager holds a current first aid certificate. This means that staff have sufficient knowledge and ability to ensure children receive appropriate medical treatment in the event of an accident. Individual medication records are maintained to ensure staff are aware of children's health needs. Written parental permission for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice is in place. This means that children will receive prompt medical attention in the event of a medical emergency.

Children are able to help themselves to fresh drinking water throughout the session and staff encourage children to eat fruit and discuss a healthy lifestyle with the children as part of planned activities. Children readily express their knowledge on healthy foods. For example, 'fruit and vegetables are good for your health'. Children eat together at set times and help serve the snacks. This ensures children understand how to keep themselves healthy and enjoy their snack times.

Children have frequent opportunities to play in the adjoining playing field with various pieces of outside equipment. There is space to run and enjoy fresh air and exercise.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and confident in the well-organised club environment. Children understand how to keep each other safe because staff explain safety rules. However, staff have not practised the emergency evacuation procedures with the children. This means that children are not safe in an emergency situation. In addition, there is some school equipment stored in the hall which compromises the children's safety.

Staff have identified potential risks and dangers and check the premises each session. For example, making sure the rear entrance door remains locked and supervising the signing in and out of children. Children are well supervised in the outside area, boundaries are clearly explained to children, setting a balance between freedom and safety. This ensures children are safe both outside and inside the building.

Children use a range of safe, good quality resources which they are able to choose from a varied selection provided each session. Staff encourage children to take responsibility for using equipment safely, monitoring condition and putting away. Children understand how to use equipment safely because staff explain clearly

before each activity.

Staff and children have a good understanding of security procedures, particularly when children leave the club. Children understand that they must wait to be collected by parents or an identified nominated person and signed out. This allows children to learn to be responsible for their own safety and take an active part in procedures.

Children are well protected. The registered person is responsible for child protection and ensures staff fully understand their responsibility to follow procedures and protect children in their care. However, the procedure and policy does not contain up to date contact details of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

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

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic and self-assured in the club, particularly when making musical instruments at the art table. Children are excited and enjoy their time at the club where they play with their friends and develop new skills. For example, extending their creative skills on 'Art Club' nights. They relate well to staff and each other and play an active part in choosing and developing activities by freely expressing their likes and dislikes.

All children enjoy choosing from a range of activities such as, construction, board games, indoor tennis and football. Children are absorbed and relaxed when working together and forming close relationships. Children expect staff to join in with their activities and they readily question and express their opinions such as, negotiating which activities to choose from the storage cupboards.

Children are supported by the staff who encourage children to extend their experiences and are involved in listening and talking to them. They use the well-presented, good quality resources to meet the needs of all the children. Children include the staff in their play and conversations particularly during quiet indoor activities, such as snack time when they discuss their school day and share ideas.

All children enjoy regular outside play on the school field. The field is secure and provides children with a large space to play team games and use resources such as, balls, hoops and skipping ropes. This enhances children's sense of adventure as they discover their wider environment and experiences.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. They increase self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions, choose their favourite activities and discuss their individual needs and preferences with staff. They have a strong sense of ownership and belonging to their club, they are settled and relaxed.

Children with learning difficulties are fully included and supported within the club. Currently there are children with specific language requirements attending and staff have effective systems to ensure help and support.

Children are well behaved. They know what is expected of them because they discuss the rules with staff and each other. Staff are good role models and take every opportunity to thank children for their help and good behaviour. They talk to the children throughout the session to ensure they understand the behaviour boundaries and respond to requests to help one another. Children are eager to help tidy-up and give out food at snack time.

Relationships with parents are friendly. Staff greet parents warmly as they arrive to collect their children and provide notices and posters. The policies and procedures are available together with a leaflet for parents describing the operation of the club. However, there is no complaints procedure or regulator contact details. This means that parents are not provided with sufficient accurate information to make a complaint.

Staff make parents welcome and offer flexible care. They encourage them to share home information on their children and also express their expectations of the club. This ensures children have their individual needs met.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by a new qualified staff team who have knowledge and experience of how to promote the care and well-being of children. The committee uses effective recruitment, vetting and induction procedures to ensure staff are aware of the operational policies within the club. This ensures children are provided with appropriate activities to promote their health, safety and enjoyment.

Good teamwork makes sure all staff work well together to promote children's achievements. Activities both inside and outside are organised with high staffing levels to ensure children are safe and supported. Planned activities allow children to be grouped according to their individual likes and dislikes. Staff have agreed security arrangements for the arrival and departure of children which are discussed with children and parents. However, the registration certificate is not prominently displayed so that parents are aware of the total registered numbers of the club.

There is clear floor space for indoor group games and physical exercise. The outdoor space is utilized to maximise play opportunities for children. Most legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and are currently under review. The out of school club meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspections the provider was asked to meet a number of recommendations

concerning written policies for safety, health, equal opportunities, special needs and child protection. They were also asked to maintain records of the attendance of children and visitors and maintain the supervision of the children and security of the building. In addition, to provide individual staff records and ensure staff held appropriate qualifications.

A new chair of the committee is now the named contact for the provider and there are also newly appointed qualified staff. Extensive review of all policies and procedures has taken place which has served to address most of the recommendations made at the last inspections. The quality of care the children and parents receive is improved by the changes to the management system.

There are still some outstanding recommendations for improvement to be completed concerning a written policy for children with learning difficulties and or disabilities, a complaints procedure and knowledge of child protection procedures. These have been carried forward to this report.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 satisfactory. 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 the emergency escape plan is regularly practised and recorded and the Child Protection policy contains the contact details of the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- review and implement a written policy for children with learning difficulties in line with current practice and include the contact details of the regulator in a written complaints procedure.

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)