

St. Mary's Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	303818
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Inspector	Rasmik Parmar
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Registered person	St Mary's Out of School Club Committee
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of 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.

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?

St Mary's Out of School Club is situated in St Mary's Catholic Primary School in King Cross, Halifax, and is committee run. The provision includes a breakfast club and an after school club. Children have access to a quiet library room, 'wet area', infant hall and an enclosed outside area. The breakfast club children have access to the parents room.

A maximum of 33 children may attend the out of school provision at any one time and a maximum of 16 children may attend the breakfast club. These are open each weekday from 07.30 to 09.00 and from 15.30 to 18.00 during term time only.

There are six members on the staff team, of these, five are appropriately qualified in play work to a minimum of level two. Staff are involved in further training to better their qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have a good awareness of personal hygiene and follow well established routines. For example, they independently wash their hands before eating and after toileting, using anti-bacterial liquid soap and paper towels to dry their hands, in order to prevent cross contamination. Staff use anti-bacterial sprays to clean tables and work surfaces to maintain good standards of hygiene. In addition, there is an inspection checklist whereby staff regularly check children's toilets. This provides an example to children who learn the importance of hygiene in relation to their health.

Children's welfare is closely protected as all required documentation to monitor their health is in place, and there is a range of policies to promote their well-being. For example, an effective policy on sickness ensures that children who are contagious do not attend. This helps to prevent the spread of infection and acts in the best interest of all children.

Children are well nourished and are provided with a balanced diet of healthy foods, including fresh fruit for snack. They are encouraged to try new food through participating in the preparation of their own snacks. Children participate in cutting fruit and making sandwiches as part of creating a better understanding of healthy living. Children's independence is promoted as they pour drinks for themselves at snack times. Jugs of water are taken out when playing outdoors so that a connection is established between the importance of physical activity and drinking plenty of water.

Children are encouraged to be active through physical play activities in the outdoor play area and indoors in the hall, using suitable equipment as part of directing their energies in a positive direction and promoting their physical well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of stimulating activities in a safe environment. They use furniture and equipment that is safe and suitable for its purpose. Space is used well to promote children's independence and to promote their all-round development. Age appropriate resources are freely available and children are able to choose activities that are easily accessible to them.

All equipment used conforms to safety standards. Children's welfare is well promoted through the proper maintenance of the required documentation to ensure their safety. For example, fire drills are carried out every term to familiarise children with the process of fire safety. Risk assessments are carried out for all areas of play, both indoors and outdoors. Staff are vigilant throughout the day and carry out safety checks to ensure continued safety of all children. In addition, older children are involved in carrying out safety checks, such as checking doors, cupboards and floor surfaces. Furthermore, younger children are involved in carrying out similar safety checks, using pictorial cards on a string to help them with the process. This creates an atmosphere whereby children learn the importance of safety as an integral part of growing and developing.

Children are well protected from abuse through staff knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. Staff are knowledgeable about the potential signs and symptoms and

are familiar with the reporting procedures. They retain the guidelines for the Local Safeguarding Children Board and have the relevant contact numbers for reporting. This means that they can act quickly in the best interest of children to safeguard their welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and enjoy their time in a broad range of stimulating and purposeful activities that provide good levels of challenge. These are appropriate to the ages and developmental needs of the children present.

Staff are committed to the principle of involving and consulting children whenever decisions are made that affect them. They listen to children and take their opinions into consideration. Hence, children are able to become responsible for the different types of activities they participate in, empowering them to take ownership. In addition, there are regular children's meetings whereby they are able to discuss various aspects of activities within the provision.

Children use a comprehensive variety of resources to play with during their short time either before or after school. They participate in lots of physical activities to release their energies, are involved in creative activities with arts and crafts material or there is a library with access to computers for quiet reflective work.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a good equal opportunities policy that is effectively promoted throughout the setting. Children are valued and made to feel welcome by staff who actively show an interest in their development. Children play with resources which promote a multi-cultural society in a positive way, such as dolls, books and dressing up clothes. Local cultural festivals are celebrated, such as Eid and the Chinese New Year. This broadens children's understanding of the wider world. Although children attend who have learning difficulties or disabilities and staff help children learn about the similarities and differences that exist between people, there are no resources to portray this.

Children are well behaved and good behaviour is positively encouraged by praise and an interest in the children. Children are confident to express themselves in a variety of ways. Older children are involved in writing the rules for the provision, which is displayed on the walls as a reminder. This helps to empower children to manage their own behaviour. Anti-bullying policies are displayed and children learn about types of unacceptable behaviour which will not be tolerated.

Partnership with parents is good because they are provided with a simplified version of the policies and procedures. Staff share information about children with parents on a daily basis in order to build an effective partnership for the welfare of children so that continuity of care is fully maintained.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for because the adults who care for them are well trained and experienced. Children benefit from a good standard of care as the setting reflects on the care it provides and is continually seeking to raise standards. Children play safely in a warm,

welcoming environment in which resources are arranged invitingly so that children are well stimulated and become highly involved in the activities provided.

Children's welfare is promoted well through good record keeping. For example, the records, policies and procedures, which are required for the efficient and safe management of the setting, are well maintained. All relevant documentation is shared effectively with parents so that children benefit from a good working relationship between staff and their parents.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was recommended to ensure risk assessments are reviewed to include any new potential hazards and ensure snacks are nutritious and in suitable quantities to meet the children's needs.

The provider has now ensured that risk assessments are carried out for all areas of play for the overall safety of children. They have ensured that children are provided with suitable quantities of nutritious foods to ensure children's well being.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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

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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):

- provide resources to promote learning difficulties or disabilities

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