

Schoolfriend Club At English Martyrs RCPC

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY344234
Inspection date	19 June 2007
Inspector	Alison Putnar
Setting Address	English Martyrs RC School, Bracken Road, Long Eaton, NOTTINGHAM, NG10 4DA
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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?

Schoolfriend Club at English Martyrs Roman Catholic Primary School has been registered since 2006. It is one of a chain of clubs under the governance of the Schoolfriend Club organisation. It is sited within the primary school building, in Long Eaton, Nottinghamshire. The club uses the Schoolfriend room, IT room, hall and toilets within the school. There is a large fully enclosed playground for outdoor play. It is registered to care for a maximum of 16 children aged from four years to under eight years. Older children may also attend. There are currently 17 children under eight on roll. The club is open Monday to Friday, from 15:10 to 17:45 during term time. There are currently two members of staff working with the children, who hold an appropriate child care qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted as staff have a secure knowledge of the setting's policies and arrangements for health and hygiene. The staff members have attended relevant first aid training to ensure they are competent in managing minor accidents as required. Relevant

permission is sought from parents in relation to seeking urgent medical attention or treatment should more serious accidents occur. Appropriate recording systems are in place for detailing any accidents and information about medication. Staff are secure in their knowledge of how to complete such records. They demonstrate a commitment to sharing these with parents ensuring continuity in the care of the children.

Children show an awareness of good hygiene practices and healthy living as they independently wash their hands before helping to prepare snacks and talk about healthy foods during snack time. Snack time is a positive social occasion for all the children. They are able to take as much time as they choose to eat. Staff use this time effectively to interact with the children engaging in worthwhile conversations. Children's independence is fostered well as they take turns in being involved in the preparation and clearing away of foods. Children's dietary needs are catered for by staff who take note of information provided by parents. Water is available throughout the session and is freely accessed by the children. This ensures they do not become dehydrated. Children are consulted in choices for future snacks as a result their likes and dislikes are noted.

Children benefit from the fresh air and physical activity when using the outdoor provision. They enjoy activities such as tennis, playing ball games, Frisbee and skipping. During good weather children are encouraged to take more resources outdoors to foster their imagination. For example, children create picnic scenes with dolls and home corner equipment. Staff understand and value the benefits of physical play. Each day, if weather permits, activities are provided outdoors and during poor weather physical activities are provided in the school hall.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children remain safe in the setting as stringent safety checks and risk assessments are completed to ensure the facilities are clean and safe. Staff take appropriate action to reduce the risk of accidents. Children are supervised effectively to further secure their safety. They learn about safe practices through practical experiences. For example, children observe from a safe distance how the toasted sandwich machine works at snack time. They are aware the filling will be very hot so they must wait until the food cools before eating. Records show that children have taken part in emergency evacuation practices, ensuring all can get out safely and calmly.

A satisfactory range of resources are provided, these are age appropriate. Staff are versatile and resourceful in using the available equipment and materials imaginatively to provide interesting activities to encourage children's participation. Accessible storage facilities mean that children can select additional equipment to extend their play. They take responsibility for helping to tidy away activities they have used. Equipment is available to enable children to eat and play together in small groups. Cushions are provided for those wishing to sit quietly and relax or read books after a busy day at school.

Children's welfare is protected as staff demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding children. The manager has attended additional training to ensure she is secure in her understanding of her roles and responsibilities to protect children from abuse and neglect. A satisfactory level of detail is included in the written procedures used to guide staff when reporting concerns for children's safety. However, the procedure to be followed in the event of allegations being made about staff is less clear.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy the provision and are confident and exceedingly settled. They are extremely well supported as staff members are clear about the purpose of the provision to provide fun and enjoyable activities in a safe and secure environment. Children are given opportunities to relax after a busy day at school or to play actively as they choose. They are consulted throughout the session for their thoughts and ideas about activities and snacks for the day and for future sessions. This promotes children's enjoyment, confidence and self-esteem as they feel valued and listened to. Children's feedback is actively sought about what they enjoy or don't enjoy, enabling staff to provide a setting specific to the interests of the children who attend. Children's all round development is supported as they take part in a wide range of interesting activities. Planned activities are provided helping those less confident to settle easily.

Staff members are flexible to accommodate the requests made by the children and are enthusiastic about these requests. For example, instead of continuing with a planned activity to make book marks children ask for the clay. This is accommodated and children spend a considerable amount of time concentrating on their models and creations. The children are interested in learning new words and build their knowledge as they talk about plans to decorate their models. They engage in lively discussions about the workings of a kiln to dry clay compared to how their clay will dry. The level of staff interaction with children is carefully balanced. Children are given time to play independently and to initiate their own activities, with experienced staff close at hand to support as required. Extremely positive relationships are evident in the setting between all children and staff, fostering a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are valued and their self-esteem promoted. The enthusiastic staff foster an environment where all children are supported and encouraged. Children show pride in their achievements as their pictures and models are displayed attractively. They comment positively on the new display of a peacock made from their hand prints. Staff are skilled at helping the children to feel a sense of belonging. Friendships are encouraged between the various ages of children who attend. All join in with a child initiated game of 'Hangman' on the chalk board. Younger children are equally confident to call out their suggestions for letters that may appear. Children are considerate of each other's feelings. Younger children are supported by older children and staff as they feel safe to talk about past events and experiences. Staff consistently pass on information to parents ensuring they are fully informed about relevant details. They work closely with parents via conversation and written information to ensure children's individual needs are accommodated. Policies and procedures are displayed for parents enabling them to make informed choices about their childcare. This also helps them to feel confident and secure about the staffs' comprehensive abilities.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. They are fully involved in setting meaningful boundaries and discussing expectations for behaviour in the setting. Their ideas are displayed on the 'promises board' showing their mature understanding of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. Systems are in place to support children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Opportunities are created for children to celebrate and share events from their own lives. They explore aspects of the wider world through interesting activities. Examples of these include

writing their names in Egyptian Hieroglyphics and tasting different foods from around the world.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff are competent and confident in their knowledge of good childcare. As a result children benefit from the effective organisation of space, resources and time. Staff to child ratios are exceeded due to the low numbers of children attending. Staff remain motivated and ensure that children receive extremely good quality support and interaction. Staff working at the setting hold relevant qualifications. They demonstrate good practice to ensure that the well-being and safety of children is paramount. A commitment to providing a good quality service for parents and children is evident. Staff develop their skills and knowledge by attending relevant courses provided by the organisation. Their dedication to their profession is clear as they also attend additional courses in their own time.

A secure recruitment process ensures that staff who work with the children are suitable to do so, again maintaining the safety of children. Required records are in place and appropriately completed by the staff members. The system for children registering to attend the club is less secure, resulting in staff not always holding accurate details of who should attend. This potentially impacts on the safe procedures for children being collected from classes in school. Staff compensate for potential incidents by being meticulous in checking with parents if their children are due to attend. Policies are in place and implemented effectively to support the smooth running of the session. The majority of written policies include relevant and required information. Overall, children's needs are met.

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):

- review the written procedures in relation to reporting suspected child abuse or neglect, ensure these reflect relevant procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against staff
- improve further the system for registering children, in relation to ensuring staff are provided with accurate records of children who are to attend the out of school session

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