



## **St James's Primary School Pre School & Out of School Club**

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 260160  
**Inspection date** 28 July 2005  
**Inspector** Jackie Nation

**Setting Address** St James's School, Kingsway, Wollaston, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 4RU  
**Telephone number** 01384 818810  
**E-mail** 01384 818811  
**Registered person** St James's CE Primary School Governing Body  
**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** Sessional 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](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?

St James Pre School and Out of School Club opened in 2000. It operates from two classrooms and a hall within St James Church of England Primary School, Wollaston, near Stourbridge in the West Midlands. The pre-school and holiday club serves children in the local community. The before and after school provision is for children who attend the school. All children share access to secure, enclosed outdoor play areas, including the orchard, foundation playground and surrounding school fields, which includes the 'trim trail' area.

There are currently 60 children from 4 to 8 years on roll in the before and after school

club and holiday club. It is the admission policy of the group to allow children up to the age of 11 years to attend. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times for the before and after school club. Opening time are from 07.30 to 08.45 and 15.30 to 17.30. The holiday club sessions are from 08.30 to 17.30 during most school holidays. The pre-school is open each weekday for children from 3 to 5 years. Opening times are from 09.00 to 11.30 and 13.15 to 15.15.

There are five staff working with the children. Over half the staff have early years and play work qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. The setting is a member of the 'Now 4 Children' organisation and receives support from the Dudley local authority early years service. The setting is working towards the Aiming High Quality Assurance scheme.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children understand the importance of personal hygiene through well-established daily routines. Staff are active in promoting good hygiene and children are independent in self care skills such as hand washing before snack and lunch time. Procedures are in place to ensure children are cared for appropriately if they are taken ill or have an accident. Recording procedures are effective and confidentiality is maintained. Most staff hold first aid certificates.

Children's dietary needs are met because they are provided with snacks and regular drinks to meet their needs and comply with parents' wishes. All staff are aware of children with special dietary needs and these needs are sensitively cared for. Staff find out about children's needs by talking to parents and recording details of specific requirements or allergies.

Children enjoy physical activity and they like playing outside. Outdoor provision is very good and children are able to play in the orchard, playground and surrounding school fields, which include a 'trim trail' area. There is space in the school for children to continue to be active during poor weather. Children's physical development is well supported and this contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe because staff have a very good awareness of health and safety issues, they are vigilant and deployed effectively, which means the children are supervised well. Staff talk to children each day about aspects of safety, for example the procedure children follow when they hear the whistle, fire evacuation,

stranger alert and which rooms are in use. Risk assessments are completed and kept up to date to reflect changes, for example assessing risks in relation to the building work which is being carried out on the site during the summer holidays. Positive steps are taken to minimise risks and promote safety, for example access to the premises is monitored, staff check identification and record details of all visitors to the setting.

Children benefit from being able to access resources easily and play and move freely around indoors and outside. Staff create a relaxed atmosphere and organise the space effectively. There are comfortable areas where children can play, relax or take part in creative and imaginative play.

Children are well protected because staff have a good understanding of child protection issues, they are aware of their role and responsibility to protect children in their care. Child protection guidance is clear and readily available for staff to put into practice when necessary.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's needs are met and their welfare promoted by staff who have a very good understanding of each child and their interests. Children's opinions and ideas are sought in order to provide a variety of play opportunities to meet their needs. They are involved in interesting projects such as 'American Red Indians' and use craft materials to complete activities which link to the theme. Children decorate panels for the 'tepee' and paint attractive stones. Visitors are invited to the setting to talk about the topic and this helps develop children's knowledge and understanding. Children enjoy the activities and have fun. They are able to construct, play imaginatively, make 'dens' and act out different roles when they play in the home corner.

Staff interaction with the children is very good, they praise and encourage children which helps to boost their confidence and self-esteem. Children eagerly initiate conversations with staff and talk with enthusiasm about what they have done. Staff are positive and respectful to all children and they value what each child has to offer. Children are encouraged to use their initiative and try new activities, for example children organise a snooker tournament for the afternoon session. Older children are patient and considerate, they play with the younger children and help them develop their confidence by explaining the rules of games and showing them how things work.

Children are learning to distinguish right from wrong because staff set fair and clear boundaries appropriate to the child's level of understanding. This works effectively as staff set a good example by showing children how to respect and cooperate with others by taking turns and sharing.

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

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into the setting and are looked after by caring and attentive staff. Children develop confidence because staff value their contribution and achievements whilst at the club. Staff find out about children's specific needs and this information is recorded. This ensures children are fully included in the life of the setting. Staff are positive about inclusion, this is supported by their knowledge and understanding of special needs and a policy statement which supports their practice.

Good behaviour is valued and encouraged. Staff act as good role models, they treat children with respect and clearly enjoy children's company. This helps children feel appreciated and have a sense of belonging. Staff establish clear boundaries according to the child's level of understanding, children become aware of the setting's routine and procedures and they know what is expected from them. Children are very well behaved and are aware of their own needs and the needs of others.

Children benefit from a trusting and mutually supportive partnership with parents. Staff meet and greet parents on arrival and there is a two-way flow of information. This ensures children are looked after according to their parent's wishes. Policies, procedures and information about the provision is made available to parents.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by staff who are qualified in childcare or play work, have been vetted and have good knowledge and understanding of child development. Staffing ratios support children's care, learning and play and space and resources are well organised. Children are supported by a routine where they can have freedom of choice. There are plenty of opportunities for spontaneous activities as the children develop their own ideas. Children feel confident to initiate their own play and at ease with staff when they need help or support.

All the required documentation which contributes to the children's health, safety and well-being is in place. However, the policy for uncollected children does not indicate who staff would refer to if a child is not collected by their parent and the policy regarding staff ratios does not link to the national standards or Ofsted as the regulator. Staff work well as a team and are clear about their deployment and responsibilities. Children's personal information is stored securely and detailed to ensure staff can promote the health and well-being of the children in their care.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection there were three recommendations that related to documentation. All issues raised have received attention, resulting in policy information being devised for children with special needs and the recording procedures for medication and accidents reviewed. The completion of the recommendations ensures that staff and parents are provided with appropriate guidance and effective recording procedures.

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

There are no complaints to report.

### **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 policy documents refer to Ofsted as the regulator and the requirements of the national standards, with particular reference to staff; child ratios
- further develop the policy for uncollected children to include details of the appropriate body.

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)