

# St. Michael's Out-of-School Club (Mickey's)

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY229746
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jill Milton
<b>Setting Address</b>	St Michael's CE Primary School, Marston Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX3 0ED
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<b>Registered person</b>	Mickey's After School Club
<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 (Mickey's) registered in 2002 and is managed by a voluntary committee. It operates from the main hall in the St Michael's Church of England Primary School in the Marston area of Oxford city and it serves the local area. Children have access to outdoor play space. The club opens on weekdays from 15.15 to 17.45 during school term times. There is a holiday play scheme on some weeks of the school holidays.

A maximum of 24 children under eight years may attend at any one time. There are currently 40 on roll between the ages of four and 10 years. The club supports children who have learning difficulties and disabilities. Support is also offered to children for whom English is an additional language. The club employs five part-time staff and two of them hold appropriate early years qualifications.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment and they are learning how to keep themselves healthy through regular hand washing. The bathroom areas are clean and the use of liquid soap and air hand dryers help to prevent the risk of cross infection between children. Staff collect sufficient information from parents to ensure they are knowledgeable about individual health needs such as allergies. If children have an accident the staff are ready to attend to them through keeping their first aid training up-to-date. However, the first aid box does not contain many sterile dressings and some are beyond the suggested expiry date.

Children are starting to eat a better range of healthy snacks during club time. A new menu includes alternatives such as fruit kebabs or crumpets and the children sit down together to enjoy their food. Children can access a jug of squash at all times to ensure they do not become dehydrated. Indoors the large hall enables children to enjoy space to play actively, for example using space hoppers or giant dominoes. There is also a suitable variety of activities on offer in the outdoor area. Children talk of the selection of activities they regularly enjoy outside such as the adventure playground or skipping ropes that play tunes. The children are receiving positive messages about the enjoyment of energetic play.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children spend most of their club time in the light and spacious school hall where they have ample space for play. There is access to a small range of furniture so that children can take part in some table-top activities or sit down for their snack time. Although children can sit on the floor to rest there is no soft comfortable area for them to relax. The club owns a suitable range of equipment to engage the children's interest. Some new storage units enable the children to select resources for themselves and many of the children attending know the range of toys available and readily request items from the staff. The storage of children's belongings is not ideal since the large pile of coats and bags makes it difficult for them to find their own things at home time.

Children receive adequate supervision whilst they play. Staff are careful to monitor adults who enter the club area since it is an open play space. Children and their parents ensure that they sign the daily register when they leave for home so that staff are aware of the numbers present in the event of an emergency. The group undertake a fire evacuation practice each term to reinforce the procedure to everyone. Staff conduct visual checks of the club area before the children arrive, ensuring, for example any games equipment is out of harm's way so that the children can play safely.

Staff have a sound understanding of the area of child protection. They ensure any adults working in the club who are awaiting checks do not work in unsupervised contact with children. The wording of the policy for child protection makes it quite clear to parents that staff have a responsibility to pass on any serious concerns they have for a child's welfare. There is access to the latest safeguarding children information to ensure staff can act promptly to protect children.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children come into the club happily and soon settle into play. The staff plan the main activities of the day though there is not an extensive range set out at the beginning. When children tire of what is available they ask the staff for fresh items and the staff oblige by helping to extend their play and ideas. There is a positive emphasis on art and craft activities and the children make some attractive items to take home. They use a reasonable variety of collage materials to make models such as rockets to celebrate bonfire night. Children experiment with different techniques, for example using coloured shapes to glue onto clear acetate sheets or when designing using fabric paints.

There is a relaxed atmosphere at the club with many conversations between staff and children. They co-operate at activities, one holding material whilst another cuts out squares for example. Staff move around the activities as the children need support and they help to engage them in what is happening. The children have access to a reasonable range of activities over the term including cooking, energetic play and the use of technology.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive at the club with an air of confidence and familiarity. There is continuity in their care since staff running the club also work within the school environment during the day. The staff make it clear in their policy on equal opportunities how they welcome all children and will challenge any discrimination. Staff take into consideration children's individual needs by finding out about any cultural or home traditions. Over time children play with some resources that promote diversity and help them to learn about the wider world.

Children who have learning difficulties or disabilities receive a welcome into the club. The staff have a positive attitude, reflected in their written policies, to ensuring the premises are accessible and suitable for children with a wide range of needs. Children with learning difficulties receive appropriate encouragement to take part in the activities and staff respect their wishes. All children are learning to behave acceptably during club times and they are at ease playing alongside children of different ages. The staff have a suitable range of strategies in place to manage children's behaviour.

Staff build satisfactory partnerships with parents and carers. Short informal conversations take place at home time and parents report on their satisfaction with the care their children receive. Staff display helpful information for parents on a notice board and within a loose-leaf file. There is access for parents to the complaints procedure and contact details for Ofsted. There is work in progress to ensure parents are up-to-date with the latest club procedures.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The club provides children with a safe and friendly place to play after the school day. The staff work together to make the sessions run smoothly and they plan an appropriate range of activities for the children. A daily register reflects that ratios are maintained for children under eight years and that there are always two members of staff on duty. The staff have a nice rapport with the children and engage them in conversations.

Staff are making improvements to the organisation of paperwork linked to the running of the club. They are steadily responding to advice from other professionals and taking on board ideas to develop their procedures. One example is the way that the committee are working with staff to review the written policies for the setting. Along with the support of the committee the staff also have backing from the school to build up and develop the club as a valuable resource for parents and children.

The systems for the recruitment and induction of new staff are adequate and there are some sound ideas regarding this area in the fresh policy documents. There is reliance at present on staff to explain procedures to new comers on the team with little in the way of paperwork to back up procedures. Established staff attend training courses though there is no formal appraisal or professional development profile in place. Despite these weaknesses the staff run a lively club that the children enjoy. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the staff were asked to address two recommendations. They now ensure that evidence of staff checks are available on the premises. When children have an accident, club staff ask parents to countersign the accident book to ensure they are informed of any incident. The impact on the children of these improvements is to further secure their health and safety.

### **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**

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 contents of the first aid box are regularly checked and restocked
- review the layout of the club to provide children with a comfortable area for relaxation and better storage of their own belongings
- implement the updated policies for the recruitment and induction of new staff and the support systems for the professional development of established staff.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)