



## St Mary`s School Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 224195

**Inspection date** 01 August 2005

**Inspector** Margaret Webster

**Setting Address** St Mary's Bluecoat School, The Grove, Lodge Lane, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV15 5EQ

**Telephone number** 01746 762231

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**Registered person** Bridgnorth Town Council

**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](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.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St Mary's School Playscheme opened in 1995. It operates from a large hall, demountable building and the school library based at St Mary's Primary School in Bridgnorth. The play scheme serves the local area.

There are currently 25 children on roll from 5 years up to aged 11 years. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Their playscheme supports children with special needs. There are no children attending with English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week for a two week period during the summer

holidays. Sessions are from 10:00 to 12:00, and 14:00 to 16:00 each day.

There are six staff working with the children. Four members of the staff have appropriate childcare qualifications. The setting has received support from the Early Years and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health within the setting is supported appropriately by staff who have a secure knowledge of the club's health and hygiene procedures. Children have a clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating this reduces the risk of cross contamination.

The children are motivated and interested in a broad range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities which provide good levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. They enjoy physical exercise and learn about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle as they join in free play and organised activities.

Records are kept of any special dietary requirements and the staff respect the parents wishes. The parents provide all the food and the playscheme provide drinks, however drinking water was not available at all times while the session was running.

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

The provision is good.

Children are secure and confident in the well-organised playscheme. They are cared for in a clean, well-maintained environment. The good organisation of well maintained toys and equipment means children can move around safely and freely to independently access available resources. The staff monitor and supervise the children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and development.

Children benefit from a good range of safety measures, for example socket covers, fire extinguishers, and a fully secure outdoor play area. They develop a good awareness of safety through practising emergency evacuation procedures regularly.

The staff have all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, all the staff hold a current first aid certificate and have secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with the Area Child Protection Committee procedures. Most of the staff have attended child protection courses.

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

The provision is good.

Children take part in quality activities throughout the session. They are enthusiastic and self-assured in the playschemes welcoming environment. They play happily with each other and the staff, learning to take turns and respond to others as they use a wide selection of outdoor equipment and participate in indoors activities. There is regular use of a wide range of creative materials, such as art and craft activities and painting. The children have access to board games, jigsaws, and the school library. The outdoor activities include kick rounders, space hoppers, bat and ball games, football, netball and free play time. Staff evaluate the activities they provide to ensure the children take part in activities that offer suitable challenge and promote their well-being and development.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals. They enjoy mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. The children know what is expected of them because they discuss and help to write the playschemes behaviour rules. They understand right and wrong through consistent boundaries, praise and the age appropriate methods the staff use to manage behaviour including explanation and distraction. They develop a positive attitude towards others and gain an understanding about the wider world and the local community by visiting local places of interest with the playscheme and having access to a good range of play resources where all the children are given the same opportunities to learn and develop.

The individual needs of all the children who attend are well met. The setting has arrangements to care for children with special needs. Children respect and understand that some children need extra help and willingly support those who do.

Partnerships with the parents is good. Information is exchanged. This enables the staff to work with the parents who are kept fully informed about the playschemes activities and the child's development.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Induction training, policies and procedures are in place and work to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. They are shared with the parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

Most of the staff have the relevant qualifications in play work and child care and they all have clear Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) disclosures. This enables the children to be cared in a safe and stimulating environment.

Overall the provision meet the needs of the children who attend.

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

Since the last inspection the Person In Charge (PIC) of the playscheme has introduced policies for Special Needs, Partnership with Parents, Health and Safety and a complaints policy that includes Ofsted's telephone number and address. The PIC has obtained an NVQ level 3 in play work and completed a Suitable Person Interview. All the staff working in the playscheme have attended child protection courses and are aware of the Area Child Protection Committee procedures. Information has been obtained from the parents on the registration form about any allergies the children may have.

### **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 that drinks are provided at all times.

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)