

# Pilsley Pirates Club

Inspection report for early years provision

---

**Unique Reference Number** EY359141  
**Inspection date** 15 April 2008  
**Inspector** Joanne Baranek

**Setting Address** Pilsley Primary School, Station Road, Pilsley, CHESTERFIELD, Derbyshire, S45 8EU  
**Telephone number** 07779152117  
**E-mail**  
**Registered person** Jane Shepherd  
**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.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Pilsley Pirates Club opened in 2007. It operates from The Elm Centre, school dining hall, Foundation Stage unit, year three/four classroom and library, in Pilsley Primary School, in the village of Pilsley, Derbyshire.

There is a secure enclosed outdoor play area and the children are taken to the school sports field for relevant activities. The out of school club serves the local area and surrounding villages.

The setting opens five days a week all year, except bank holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year. Sessions are from 15.00 until 18.00 during term time and 08.30 until 18.00 during school holidays.

The setting is registered to care for 48 children and currently has 42 children on roll ranging from four to 10 years.

The setting can accommodate children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The setting employs four full-time staff who work with the children. Three of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and one staff member is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting receives support from the local authority and are members of 4Children, the out of school club support network.

The out of school club is owned by an individual who holds an appropriate early years qualification and works in the setting.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

This setting promotes good health exceptionally through their consistent and thorough hygiene procedures. The children are able to wash their hands with liquid soap and dry them with paper towels or an electric hand dryer in order to limit cross-contamination and the spread of infection. The children wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating and after they have played outside and this limits cross-contamination and them becoming ill. There is a disabled toilet available for children and adults to use should they need further support and as it is equipped with all the appropriate hand rails and safety features this is able to fully support any care needs they may have. All tables are cleaned with antibacterial spray between activities and meal times and as separate cloths are used to clean the tables used for creative work this helps to prevent the spread of germs.

The comprehensive sick child policy the setting has in place includes all common illnesses, their appropriate exclusion periods and the procedure the staff will follow to prevent the spread of infection within the setting. This ensures the parents are aware that they will not accept any child into their care who is ill or infectious and therefore protects the children within their care, stops any infection spreading and keeps the children healthy. Medication is administered to the children within the setting after prior written permission and details about the dosage are received from the parents. This ensures the children receive the correct medication, dose and at the appropriate time and helps to prevent any over dosage. The details of any medication given are recorded on the same form which is duplicated on to a slip which the parents are able to take home. This ensures they are able to see what medication has been given to their children and are therefore able to continue the care of the child appropriately.

The setting provides extremely healthy and good quality food for the children they care for. They provide snacks and small teas which are healthy fruit and vegetable enriched meals such as cheese, crackers and salad, fruit kebabs, pasta, vegetable sticks or fruity jelly. The parents provide the packed lunches for the children through the holidays and these are stored appropriately within a refrigerated area, so to be kept cool and safe. The parents provide the children with healthy options and as the setting have given children guidance on healthy eating through a variety of activities and discussions, they are able to choose the healthy food for themselves. The children are able to access fresh drinking water throughout the day as the setting uses a jug of fresh water which they can access as they wish, and as the cups are all individually labelled with each child's name this limits cross-contamination.

The children are developing excellent physical skills through the large variety of activities the staff plan and provide. The children are able to play with large equipment and practise a variety

of skills such as climbing and jumping supported with the safety of gym mats beneath. They practise throwing, catching and accuracy skills through games and activities available, for example, a hoopla game, basketballs and hoops, and footballs and nets. The staff plan physical games to encourage the children to run and raise their heart rate and as the setting uses a large sports hall and enclosed playground area this is done within a safe environment. The children are starting to learn about healthy lifestyles through the provision of good quality food and the staff discussing why they should be eating healthy options. The staff remind the children to put their hands over their mouths and noses when they cough or sneeze, encouraging them to take control over protecting their good health.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The provider takes the safety of the children within their care extremely seriously. The premises are safe because of the equipment in place, for example, socket covers and gym mats to ensure their safety when playing on the equipment. The chemicals used for cleaning are stored in a locked cupboard away from the children and the knives are kept in the kitchen which is inaccessible to all children enabling the setting to be a safe place for the children. The setting has a mobile phone that they take with them at all times to ensure the parents are able to contact them if they wish and they are able to contact appropriate people in the case of an emergency. The parents have assigned passwords, if they are unable to collect their child an appropriate adult is able to step in and be checked by the staff. This ensures the safety of the child and flexibility for the parents.

The furniture and resources the setting has are of top quality and the staff ensure these are clean and safe for the children before they access them. The toys are cleaned on a regular basis with sterilising fluid and the surfaces are cleaned down during the day with antibacterial spray to ensure germs are killed. Broken or unsafe resources are removed and either repaired or disposed of to prevent children hurting themselves on them and the staff check all areas before the children arrive to ensure all areas are as safe as possible. All toys are age-appropriate for all the children that access the club, for example, role play equipment for the younger children and board games for the older children, and the children are able to play with whichever resources they wish to, irrespective of their age. There is an area for the children to access if they need a rest or in which they can reflect and relax and the staff ensure this has comfortable cushions within for them to sit on. The club is extremely child-friendly, inviting and stimulating as the children are able to display their creative work on a board inside the entrance hall. This gives them ownership over their environment and encourages them to want to play and learn.

The setting ensures the utmost safety of the children whilst out on trips by visiting the area prior to the outing to risk assess for any hazards. This enables them to put precautions or procedures in place to support the safety of the children. These are shared with the children on the journey to the destination together with any assembly point that has been identified in order for the children to manage their own safety successfully. The children wear hi-visibility vests with the setting's name on and a sticker with a staff's phone number attached so that if a child is separated from the group they are able to be found quickly. This procedure is reflected in the lost child policy in order for the parents minds to be placed at ease. The children are kept safe from the danger of fire through the vigorous checks and safety equipment the setting has. There are smoke alarms that are linked into the mains electrics, fire extinguishers and a clear evacuation procedure to be followed in the case of a fire, which the children practise on a regular basis.

Children are safeguarded in this setting because of the staff's excellent understanding of child protection and the referral process they would follow in the case of any suspicions. All staff are trained within child protection and are fully competent in identifying signs and symptoms of abuse, and discussing these with their designated child protection officer. The written policy backs up the procedure they will follow including the phone numbers they will call in the case of any suspicions and includes how the club will proceed in the case of an allegation made against a staff member. This is shared with the parents to enable them to understand the process to follow if they have any concerns or worries.

Children are learning how to be safe through discussions about the club rules and why they are needed to support their safety, and are encouraged to follow safety procedures whilst out of the setting. These include discussing stranger danger with the children, helping them to be aware of the need to keep with the adults they know, and the need for the hi-visibility vests for the safety of all the children in the group. These procedures and discussions help the children to start to manage their own behaviour in a successful manner.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met through the activities provided and the resources available. They are enjoying their time with the club and learning new skills to help support their development. Within the room the staff lay out a variety of activities that encourage the children to develop emotionally, physically and intellectually. These include role play equipment, board games and dressing-up clothes. They are changed daily to keep children interested and refresh their learning and are supportive of the child's age or level. However, the children are unable to access their own activities and resources as the setting does not currently have appropriate child-friendly storage and this impacts on their ability to be independent. This is also not fully supported at mealtimes as the children are not consistently given the opportunity to prepare their own food, for example, by spreading their own butter on crackers or making their own sandwiches. As all children have their own key person on the staff they are able to talk to them if they have any problems and the parents have a point of contact that is consistent.

During the holidays the staff provide a variety of opportunities for the children to go out and have new experiences. The children have been to Gulliver's Kingdom, the local parks, bowling, a climbing wall and swimming. This gives the children an opportunity to visit places that interest them and enjoy their time with the club. Within the setting the staff plan plenty of opportunities for the children to play social games such as 'Twister' and 'Squeak piggy, squeak' which encourage the children to play with their peers whatever age they are. Creative activities are available for them to join in with, for example, free painting, colouring in and creating sparkly bookmarks. This gives all children an appropriate outlet in which they can express their creative side if they wish to. The staff take the children on local walks around the village where they visit the local park and feed the horses in a nearby field. This enables them to access local facilities and have a sense of the community in which they live.

The staff evaluate the activities they provide for the children and either plan the same activity again or rework it to give the children games they enjoy more. The children are asked for their opinion through specially designed questionnaires and encourage them to talk to the staff on a daily basis about the activities and resources available. The children's self-esteem and confidence is fully supported within the setting as the staff praise them and listen to them during each session. The staff readily join in with all activities and games the children play in order to encourage participation and ensure the children have fun. They talk to the children

about topics that the children are interested in and this helps to forge good relationships within the setting.

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

The provision is good.

Children are all included in this setting as they welcome all ethnic or religious backgrounds which is fully supported through the documentation as their ethnic origin, culture or religion and language is asked for on the children's registration form. An equal opportunities policy is in place and shared with parents to show the inclusive practice the provider uses and how they will support all children to celebrate their cultural and religious identity by providing appropriate resources and activities. The policy includes how the staff will deter racial harassment from occurring within the club and how the staff will deal with this if children do exhibit this behaviour. As the staff have attended an equal opportunity course this enables them to treat all families and support the beliefs of all children equally. They support this practice through planned activities and resources available for the children throughout the session.

The provider supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities as the staff have attended courses on additional needs and are able to use Makaton to communicate with children who have hearing difficulties. The manager is the special needs co-ordinator and has attended the appropriate courses she needs to fully support the staff and children within the setting. The additional needs policy follows the special needs code of practice and explains how the setting will liaise with the parents, schools and outside support agencies in order to provide the children with the supportive practice they need. The provision is fully accessible to all children and adults due to the disabled toilet and wide doors for easy access. This ensures all children and their families are able to be supported with all aspects of their care and education within this setting.

Children are learning to manage their own behaviour because of the consistent methods the setting uses to discourage unwanted behaviour. The club uses ground rules to provide the children with boundaries that help them to follow guidelines and learn right from wrong. The procedures the staff use to encourage acceptable behaviour are outlined within a policy the parents view on admission, ensuring they are aware of how the setting supports the children. There is a separate policy stating how the staff will approach bullying and discourage this unacceptable behaviour with the children by encouraging them to talk through any disagreements. Good behaviour is praised consistently, developing the children's self-esteem and encouraging the children to manage their own behaviour successfully.

The provider supports partnership between the club and the parents of the children they care for. The staff talk to parents regularly about their children, what they have been doing and if they have had any accidents or injuries during the day. They provide a two-way communication between the school and home environment if the parents are unavailable for school runs and this supports them to be fully involved in all areas of their child's life regardless of their work commitments. Policies are shared on the child's admission to enable the parents to have an understanding of how the setting works and procedures the staff follow, and particular needs of the children are discussed at this time to ensure they receive the care they require. The setting asks for the parent's feedback on their practice through a suggestion box available at all times and regular questionnaires that are distributed. The staff then address any worries or ideas they may have and feed back to all parents through the regular newsletters.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The manager is suitable to look after the children within the setting as she has a National Nursery Examination Board Qualification and a level two qualification in Play Work. She also has appropriate training in first aid and fire safety training together with child protection and working with children with additional needs. The courses she has successfully attended correspond with the children the setting cares for and she readily accesses further courses she feels are necessary in order to improve the care she provides, for example, Early Years Foundation Stage training to support the under five-year-olds within the group. She ensures that all staff are suitable to be working with the children by requesting two references when they accept employment and ensuring that all staff and adults who have contact with the children are Criminal Record Bureau checked.

Children are cared for safely on a day-to-day basis as the provider remains within their designated numbers and ensures both the children's hours of attendance and the staff who look after them are recorded on a daily basis. All staff receive an induction when they start with the club to ensure they fully understand the policies and procedures the setting uses and the manager makes sure they have a good knowledge of child protection, health and safety and fire evacuation procedures within their first week of employment. They all have a staff handbook which they can refer to during their time with the provider which includes specific policies relating to their employment and the daily operation of the setting. The manager ensures all staff have a regular appraisal and their individual training needs are identified and updated on an on-going basis to make sure they are able to provide the quality care the setting requires. The space and equipment within the setting is suitable for all the children cared for and provides adequate space for the children to play and relax within. Overall children's needs are met.

The manager is well organised and all paperwork is filed well and easily accessible by the parents if they wish to see their child's details. Each child has an individual file ensuring their confidentiality is maintained. Details for the children are updated regularly so the staff have the correct information about the children they care for. Contact details for the parents are carried at all times by the staff to ensure they are able to get hold of the parents in the case of an emergency, and as they carry a mobile phone with them at all times the parents are also able to contact them too. Policies are updated on a regular basis to ensure they are still current and are available for parents to refer to during their time with the setting enabling them to be up to date with the procedures the staff use on a daily basis.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

This is not applicable as this is the first inspection since registration.

## **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 to 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):

- further develop the children's independence within the setting with particular reference to their meal times and resource selection.

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)