

# Schools Out @ Bowdon Church School

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY360501
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 May 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Janice Shaw
<b>Setting Address</b>	Bowdon Church School, Grange Road, Bowdon, ALTRINCHAM, Cheshire, WA14 3EX
<b>Telephone number</b>	07931 345 856
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<b>Registered person</b>	Elmscot Day Nursery Ltd
<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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Schools Out at Bowden Church School is one of six out of school clubs run by Elmscot Day Nursery Ltd. It opened in 2007 and operates from classrooms within Bowden Church School in the Bowdon area of Trafford.

The facility is registered to care for a maximum of 80 children under eight. There is currently 108 children on roll in the breakfast and after school club and 90 children for the holiday club.

Opening times are from 07.45 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 18.30, five days a week term time. The setting also provides care for children during school holidays, when it is open from 07.45 to 18.30. The club does not operate during the Christmas holidays.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted because effective procedures are in place to keep them healthy. The premises are well maintained, surfaces are wiped down during the day and food is prepared

by staff with food hygiene training. Children adopt good hygiene practices as part of the daily routine, such as washing hands before eating and after toileting. There is always a member of staff on duty or available on the premises who has training in first aid. This ensures that any minor accidents or illness are dealt with appropriately and an effective sick child policy is securely in place. Children have regular opportunities to engage in physical play outdoors as part of a healthy lifestyle. They happily play in the fresh air on the outdoor field and the adventure play equipment in the school grounds.

Children can easily help themselves to a healthy range of snacks in the 'Snack Stop', which is an area where snacks are laid out and children help themselves at a time of their own choosing. Most lunch and tea items are prepared daily at a nearby nursery and transported to the club. Meals are made wherever possible from fresh ingredients in line with the settings healthy lifestyle programme. Children look forward to their snack and meal times and are offered items, such as raisins and fresh fruit and tuna or beef sandwiches, potato salad and corn crisps. Health and dietary needs are recorded, and given due consideration when planning menus. Meal times are relaxed social occasions, where both children and staff sit together and chat. Brightly coloured plates and cups make meal times a more pleasurable experience for them. Children are able to quench their thirst during the day to ensure that they remain hydrated. They can help themselves to fresh drinking water from a chilled water dispenser.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment. Different areas of interest are established within the accommodation, to enable children to move around their surroundings with ease and confidence. They confidently choose from an accessible, broad range of age appropriate toys and equipment. Children are able to ask for toys that are not out and they are aware of what resources and materials are kept in the store cupboard, as a pictorial file of the settings equipment helps children to decide what additional equipment is available. All equipment is safe, clean and well maintained to ensure children's safety.

In most areas of the facility all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that children are cared for in a safe environment. However, the external doors are not always secure and do not provide sufficient protection to the children. Written fire procedures and fire fighting equipment are in place and children practise regular fire drills, ensuring that they are fully proficient in emergency evacuation procedures. Children's welfare is protected because staff have a good understanding of the child protection issues and procedures. Information about and contact details for the Local Safeguarding Children Board are available.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children arrive eager and happy to start their day at the facility. Excellent relationships exist with all the staff and is evident throughout the day. They are settled, extremely comfortable and relaxed in the setting. The flexible routine adapts to their requests and the wide choice of frequently changed activities keeps the children fully occupied and busy. They thoroughly enjoy attending the club, eagerly telling visitors about their favourite activities. Their individual welfare needs are accommodated exceedingly well. For example, the children exercise daily, and may rest in a quieter area if they desire, and have their nutritional needs well met.

Full use is made of the available indoor and outdoor areas, and children benefit greatly from using the adjacent school grounds. These offer additional outdoor play space and an adventure play area, which supports children's physical exercise throughout the year. Children enthusiastically take part in sporting, musical and creative arts that successfully develop their self-confidence and talents. For example, children use the skipping ropes or play rounder's with their friends where they learn to take turns, follow rules and play fairly together. Those who wish to have some time to themselves choose quieter pursuits, such as playing on the games console or reading a book.

Children play a dynamic part in the setting by their involvement in the club council where suggestions are placed in a box and this is then discussed by the group's elected council. At other times children also contribute their suggestions for future planning and equipment. Such practices help to give children a strong sense of belonging and ownership of the club. Children play well independently and with their peers. They enjoy opportunities to work more directly with practitioners through activities, such as creating the miniature gardens, creating singing group, or playing a card game.

Huge amounts of enthusiasm is demonstrated by the children as they join in planned activities, and confidently self-select and adapt activities to their own ideas. For example, when involved in the plant pot decorating activity, each child is free to design in the way they choose. They have their individual needs met very well. Staff demonstrate they have very good knowledge of children's likes, preferred activities and interests, and provide a wide variety of interesting and fun activities. Children think up their own ideas which staff embrace. For example, when enjoying a song on a console game a member of staff reminds them that there is a karaoke machine in the shed. Children then spend considerable lengths of time going over and over songs until they are word perfect, clearly enjoying themselves.

Children thrive in the happy, tranquil and stimulating environment. They establish strong relationships with their peers and staff and this contributes to their enjoyment. They are valued and staff help them to feel good about themselves by offering positive support, praise and encouragement. Children communicate exceptionally well with each other and staff. Staff effectively boost children's confidence and promote and build their self-esteem with positive interaction.

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

The provision is good.

Staff create an environment where children feel valued and everyone listens to each other as they share news or chat about their day. Sensitivity is shown to children's individual needs and children learn about differences through a reasonable range of resources and some very good activities. For example, as part of recent topic work children explored what it would be like to have a vision or hearing impairment by covering their eyes and ears. They also tried out crutches and wheelchairs and realised that some areas of the building were difficult to access. Boys and girls have equal access to activities.

Children are well behaved and polite. They respect established boundaries and understand that certain rules are required to maintain a safe environment. Clear policies and procedures are in place to promote a positive environment where children and staff respect each other. Children's individual levels of maturity are acknowledged and they are encouraged to consider the consequences of their actions and other people's feelings. Staff promote children's confidence as they praise their efforts and talents.

Parents are made to feel welcome and staff establish, open and friendly relationships. Verbal feedback at the end of the day and regular newsletters keeps them informed about the setting and their children's activities. This promotes good continuity of care. A booklet is available with basic details about the setting but parents are not informed of the availability of the file containing the setting's policies and procedures.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Staff are experienced and work well together as a team to ensure that children are appropriately supervised. Secure arrangements are in place for the selection and recruitment of suitable staff. Staff regularly attend training to increase their knowledge and experience of childcare practices and they demonstrate a strong commitment towards providing high quality childcare.

A very comprehensive set of policies and procedures are in place and all appropriate documentation is completed to contribute to the safety and well-being of the children attending. Confidentiality is maintained throughout and written information is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that all aspects comply with any regulations.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

Not applicable.

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

Since the 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):

- ensure that unwarranted access cannot be gained to the facility.

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)