



# **St Nicholas Chantry Out of School Club**

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 118513

**Inspection date** 23 June 2005

**Inspector** Sue Davey

**Setting Address** St Nicholas Primary School, Highdale Avenue, Clevedon, North Somerset, BS21 7LT

**Telephone number** 01275 795518

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**Registered person** St Nicholas Chantry Out of School Club

**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 Nicholas Chantry Out of School Club offers after school provision for 26 children from 15.15 to 18.00 during term time and a holiday playscheme for up to 40 children from 8.00 to 18.00. They also include some school 'inset' days.

The group operates from a single storey, brick built, self contained building in the grounds of St. Nicholas Chantry Primary School in Clevedon. The building serves as a dining hall for the school during the day. The premises consist of a large playroom with small kitchen and office areas, plus separate male and female toilets. Outside, the children have access to a large grassed area, enclosed courts and the

playground.

The After School Club has currently 46 children on roll. Of these, 21 are between the ages of 4 and 8 years. Many children attend on a part time basis. Numbers of children attending the Playscheme vary as bookings are taken prior to each holiday period. There are six part-time staff who work with children plus a full-time manager. The manager and 2 other members of staff are qualified in playwork/childcare to level 2 or 3. Some staff work in both the After School and the Holiday Playscheme. The After School Club is available only for those children attending St. Nicholas Chantry School. The Play scheme is open to the wider community.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health is safeguarded by staff. They make sure the toilets, floors and equipment are kept clean. Children follow good hygiene procedures and understand the need to wash their hands at appropriate times. Staff hold up-to-date first aid certificates, they know how to deal with emergencies and keep records of any accidents that occur. They obtain detailed instructions from parents and specialists so they can manage children with asthma, diabetes and severe allergies. Permission is sought and a clear record kept of all medication needed by children. Parents receive a copy but are not always asked to sign the record when children have used their inhaler.

Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks including fresh fruit and salad vegetables. Drinking water is readily available throughout the session and they are encouraged to drink more after physical activities and in warm weather. Children eagerly play outside and take part in a range of activities. They play football, skip, play team games and on occasion, use their bikes and scooters in the enclosed courts. During holiday provision children spend most of their time outside if the weather allows.

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

The provision is good.

Although the premises are in very poor condition, they are safe and suitable for their purpose and provide plenty of space for children to carry out a variety of activities. The wide range of toys and equipment are well maintained and stored so that children can access them easily. Staff carry out a risk assessment on all areas of the provision and take action to minimise risks. Safety policies include outings and special events. Staff know the children well, they provide high levels of supervision and insist on strict collection arrangements. Consequently, children play in safety whether indoors or outside.

Children learn about different aspects of safety through planned activities. For example, they learn about road safety, the prevention of accidents in the home and basic first aid. They discuss setting the club's safety rules and understand their

importance. Consequently, they do not stack chairs too high; they do not attempt to leave the premises without an adult and they understand that certain activities are restricted to specific areas such as the courts. Children listen to staff and follow instructions. They regularly practise fire drills especially when new children or staff join the club. Staff have a clear understanding of child protection issues and know what to do if concerns arise. Policies and procedures are well written and shared with parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in an environment where the focus is clearly to relax and have fun. They enjoy a wide range of activities both indoors and outside. They choose freely what they want to do and often arrive with a plan in mind. Favourite activities include cooking, craftwork and imaginative play. Some projects involve making large-scale models or props such as a space rocket or a life size ice-cream van with all its wares. In fine weather, the children enjoy being outside and make good use of the space and equipment. Some play team games, which they usually organise themselves, whereas others prefer to sit and chat sociably and make daisy chains. During holiday periods, activities centre on a theme and often involve specific tuition. For example, children eagerly learn circus skills, how to make corn-dollies or play in a band.

Staff build good relationships with the children and join in with their games. They spend time talking and listening to each other, often discussing their school day or family events. Children are encouraged to make suggestions about future activities and regularly assist with the planning. In this way, they gain confidence and a sense of identity with the group. However, there are times when children are not given sufficient opportunity to do things for themselves. From time to time, special interest groups are set up one day per week to accommodate the latest craze. Currently they have formed a 'Scooby-Do Club'.

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

The provision is good.

All children have equal access to the resources and activities and independently choose what to play with. They learn about different cultures and traditions through interesting activities and they enjoy learning new skills. Children with special needs are fully included in the group. Activities are adapted if necessary to make sure that all children can take part and extend their interests. Staff talk to parents and obtain specific information so that children are cared for appropriately. Children are confident, happy and settled. New children are warmly welcomed and they quickly feel part of the group. Children behave well and cooperate with each other across the age ranges. If disputes occur, they sensibly ask for support from staff. For instance, one child called out, "Can you help us, we have a problem over here that needs sorting out". Staff use effective methods to gain children's attention and children respond well to their firm but fair and understanding approach. Children are involved

in writing the club rules which they choose to base on the school's system. Consequently, they understand where the boundaries lie and remind each other how to behave.

Parents receive clear information about the group. They are encouraged to take an active interest through the voluntary parent committee. Bright displays and notices show parents what activities the children take part in and staff talk to parents every day. Children have high self-esteem as staff praise them in front of their parents and talk about their achievements. Likewise, they discuss any concerns and seek appropriate solutions.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The setting is managed by a voluntary parent committee. They follow good recruitment procedures and staff are thoroughly vetted before being left unsupervised with children. They make sure staff are properly qualified and experienced, and have access to additional training to up date their skills. Correct ratios of adults to children are maintained and there is a low turn over of staff. Young volunteers often progress to become paid play assistants, returning time and again to work in the holiday playscheme. This provides continuity for children and a team of staff who know the routine well.

The operational plan outlines the day-to-day running of the group and staff are familiar with the policies and procedures. All regulatory documentation is in place and records are up to date with very few minor omissions. The manager and deputy plan a comprehensive programme of activities for children and book various events throughout the year. They take account of the children's different levels of ability and personal interests. In this way the setting manages to meet the needs of the range of children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the setting agreed to develop their policies and procedures regarding child protection and health, and negotiate with the school to improve the condition of the building. Since then the manager and committee have reviewed and updated their operational plan. There is now a clear procedure to follow if allegations of abuse to children are made against a member of staff or volunteer. The health and safety policy now includes a statement explaining that children who are ill or infectious will not be admitted to either the after school or holiday club. This helps to ensure the health and welfare of all children. All policies and procedures are available to parents at any time but are specifically highlighted at the start of a placement.

There has been little improvement to the condition of the building despite the children's involvement in decorating the walls. Staff work hard to maintain a clean environment for children but gross deterioration of the building is evident. However, the school is currently working on plans for a new building to replace the existing one in the near future. This has been discussed with club staff and the committee.

## **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):

- Make sure the record of medicines given to children is signed by parents, even when self-administered.
- Make good use of opportunities for children to increase their independence.

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)