

St Marys After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	316799
Inspection date	11/02/2009
Inspector	David Halford
Setting address	St Marys RC Primary School, Belgrave Street, Radcliffe, Manchester, M26 4DG
Telephone number	07986 799365
Email	stmarysradcliffe@bury.gov.uk
Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the setting

St Marys After School Club has been registered since September 2000. It is run by a management committee. The group operates from St Marys Roman Catholic Primary School in the Radcliffe area of Bury. Children have use of the junior hall, the adjacent quiet area and associated facilities. The school playground and playing field provide a secure area for outdoor play. A maximum of 48 children may attend the club at any one time. It offers places to children who are pupils of St Marys Roman Catholic Primary School and opens each weekday from 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.15 to 18.00 term time only. There are currently 47 children between the ages of four to eight years on roll although children up to 11 years may attend. The club is registered on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language. The club employs seven members of staff, five of whom hold appropriate early years or play work qualifications. There are effective links with Bury Childcare and Extended Services and the school.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding. The club offers outstanding provision to meet the needs of all its children. The leadership and staff have a clear knowledge of the recent developments and expectations for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and are working well towards implementing this provision. They have made the changes requested at the time of the last inspection and overall demonstrate an outstanding capacity to improve. The leadership maintains very detailed records and policies but does not systematically assess the progress made by individual children in its care. However, the children clearly enjoy their time at the club and are presented with a very wide range of activities. Inclusion is outstanding so that all children are fully catered for and their welfare promoted excellently. There are outstanding relationships with parents and class teachers.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- improve the processes for assessing the achievements of individual children.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The leadership of the club has maintained a high degree of stability amongst staff. This has enabled significant improvements to be made to the provision since the

last inspection. Overall, the leadership demonstrates an outstanding capacity to sustain the current high quality of its present provision. Staff and children respond well to the experienced and well-qualified leader. A comprehensive range of policies and procedures are maintained and are well known to the staff.

Procedures to ensure the safeguarding of children are in place and procedures to ensure their welfare are excellent. Suitable checks on staff are carried out and up to date records are maintained. As a result, children settle quickly into the routines, feel secure and clearly enjoy the time they spend in the club.

Although very effective evaluation takes place informally, staff are at a relatively early stage of development in documenting their evaluation of the provision. They acknowledge that more needs to be done to assess the progress made by children as they engage in activities to more accurately ascertain children's future learning needs. Despite this area for further development leadership and management are very strong.

The setting works well in partnership with all parents in a number of ways. The manager is well qualified and provides excellent links between the Care Club and the staff of the school. Parents and carers are very well informed both through personal contacts with staff and via informative notices near the club's entrance.

Parents speak highly of all the provision that is offered. A parent described the setting as, 'Wonderful. My children would come at the weekend if it was open!' The club is resourced excellently indoors and has ready access to the extensive outside facilities and gardens. The club has its own gardening area which it uses particularly well.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are provided for exceptionally well, whatever their individual needs, in a very caring and thoughtfully inclusive setting. Children achieve well and make very good progress, especially in their personal, social and emotional development. The setting provides a safe and secure environment for children and so they become increasingly confident and independent as learners. They clearly enjoy their time in the club and settle quickly to the activities prepared for them.

Staff provide an outstanding range of activities, many of which promote the learning of basic skills in an enjoyable way. Over time these activities cover all the areas of learning for young children. At the time of the inspection many were excitedly trying to work a computer game which was especially purposeful in developing their physical skills and hand-eye coordination. Individual staff members gave clear instructions to some of the younger children on how to operate the equipment. Staff also used effective questioning techniques to gauge how well children were coping with the tabletop activities on offer.

Relationships are excellent between children and staff. All children participate particularly well and take turns when sharing equipment. Children get on well together and say how much they look forward to the time they spend in the setting. The club is clearly a happy place where children are secure and at ease

and parents are confident in the high quality care their children receive.

Children have a very strong understanding of how to stay fit and healthy. They know the importance of keeping fit and promoting cleanliness. The children show a good awareness of safety and move around the room with care. Routines are well established and respected by them. Children enjoy the physical opportunities provided when playing outdoors. Children tidy away when the session comes to an end. They behave well and respond readily and positively to the guidance given by the staff. This enables children to learn many skills which will serve them well in the future.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
---	-----

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
--	-----

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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.