

The Alpha Out Of School Club



Leigh C of E Infant School, Walmesley Road, LEIGH, Lancashire, WN7 1YE

Inspection date	19 November 2015
Previous inspection date	18 April 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff know the children well because they take time to listen to what they say. Effective systems are in place to evaluate the quality of provision and make improvements that benefit the children. Children arrive at the club to find a wide range of favourite and fun activities to share with their peers. These help complement the skills and knowledge that children develop at school.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Parents are very pleased with the way the club operates and the good care they feel their children receive. All relevant information is shared about children's unique needs. This enables staff to put in place any specific support required to assist children's progress towards the early learning goals.
- The arrangements for collecting children from a number of schools are very well thought out and implemented efficiently. This helps to keep children safe and well protected.
- Staff have a pleasant manner and provide children with good examples of how to interact with each other. Staff ensure that the way they care for the children supports them in behaving well and playing courteously with one another. Children are given time and space to follow freely their own ideas and make choices independently.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are not helped to fully understand why a nutritious diet and physical exercise are important for good health.
- Performance management is not fully effective in driving improvements in staff's interactions with children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- support staff in extending children's knowledge and understanding of the benefits of eating a balanced diet, keeping fit and maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- strengthen supervision and training arrangements to build on staff's knowledge and enhance further the good quality of the provision made for children

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the dining room. He viewed the outdoor learning environment and equipment being used on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector interacted with children and spoke to staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection. He also viewed feedback documents and took account of the information made available for parents, including the use of electronic media.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, other members of staff and a senior manager of the company. He also held a telephone conversation meeting with the nominated person.
- The inspector held a number of informal discussions with the manager, during which he explored her understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- The inspector looked at children's records, relevant safety documentation and evidence of the qualifications and suitability of staff working in the club.
- The inspector checked the arrangements for first-aid trained staff and their deployment.

Inspector

Frank Kelly

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. A thorough induction and regular staff training programme helps staff to develop their good understanding of the steps to take, should they have a concern about the safety of a child. Essential training, such as first-aid is provided for all staff. The premises are clean, well maintained and organised. Staff check for hazards before children arrive and supervise them well. The staff team has a range of experience and qualifications which is above minimum requirements. They use their knowledge effectively to promote good quality play, and give due care and attention to children's well-being while they are at the club. Staff engage parents very well and share information regularly in many ways. These include newsletters, displays and the use of social media. Parents' feedback is gathered by managers in several ways to support their review, development and continuous improvement of the club.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Effective partnerships with the schools children attend, and their parents, means children's specific needs are known and catered for. Staff have a good understanding of how different activities and equipment can support children's development. They organise activities for the children that capture their interest well, allow them to develop their friendships, exchange their ideas and build their skills. For instance, children practice self-help skills as they dress up in a range of character outfits. They develop their handwriting and pencil control as they create pictures. Regular access to a wide range of creative media allows the children to use different tools and develops their design skills. Children problem solve as they build with the construction materials. Staff routinely share books with the children and encourage them to talk about the story. The good range of activities available helps to develop the skills and attitudes that complement children's learning in class.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are friendly and welcoming. There are firmly established routines for collecting children from their school or their class, which means that children are cared for by familiar adults. This helps to promote their sense of security and emotional well-being. The staff are adept at supporting children to show care and consideration for each other. They foster children's early citizenship very well, through the encouragement of listening to each other's news. Children have regular access to books, dolls and play figures which are representative of the culture, customs and celebrations of families other than their own. As a result, they develop an understanding of their wider society. Children enjoy opportunities to rest and relax or be more active, such as when they play table tennis. They learn about keeping themselves and others safe as they wait patiently for their turn to jump and roll on the exercise mat. Suitable hygiene routines, such as handwashing, are encouraged before children are served with a healthy snack.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY437935
Local authority	Wigan
Inspection number	853882
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 11
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	90
Name of provider	St Bede's Childcare Limited
Date of previous inspection	18 April 2012
Telephone number	0120461899

The Alpha Out Of School Club was registered in 2011. The club employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or 6. The club opens from 7.45am to 9am and from 3.15pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday during term time, and provides care for children attending the host school, Leigh C of E Infant School, Leigh Central Primary School and Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School. A holiday club offers care to a wider group of children and operates Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm.

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