

Schoolfriend Clubs @ St Mary's Ware



St. Marys Junior Mixed School, Heath Drive, WARE, Hertfordshire, SG12 0RL

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| Inspection date | 1 December 2016 |
| Previous inspection date | 12 December 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

- The well-qualified manager and dedicated staff are committed to reflecting on and improving the club. They actively seek the views of children and parents to help support continuous improvement. Children say they like attending the club because they are involved in choosing activities.
- Children demonstrate that they are happy to attend this welcoming club. The key-person system is managed effectively by staff who build secure relationships with children. They wave in excitement as they notice their key person coming to collect them from their class in school and safely escort them to the club.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Staff provide them with daily information about the activities and routines that their children take part in. Parents are positive about the care their children receive and describe staff as very friendly and approachable.
- Children demonstrate good levels of confidence. For example, they invite authorised visitors to join in their play. Children enjoy participating in a range of stimulating experiences that enhances their curiosity and understanding of the world.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are times during adult-led art and craft activities when some staff are more focused on the finished article. They do not always respond to children's ideas to complete the tasks in their own way.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- help staff in promoting children's creativity, building on their own ideas and ways of doing things.

Inspection activities

- The inspector accompanied the deputy manager as she collected children from the school based on the same site.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the club manager and discussed the club's self-evaluation process.
- The inspector observed staff interactions with children in their play indoors, spoke to staff and interacted with children at appropriate times.
- The inspector held a meeting with the club manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the club's policies and procedures and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding children are effective. Staff have completed specialist training to help them to understand how to support vulnerable families. This supports them to identify any children who may be at risk of harm from extreme behaviours and views. Staff know what to do if they have any concerns about a child's welfare and are highly vigilant about safety as children play. Regular staff supervision meetings and annual appraisals are used to support staff to continue to develop their knowledge and skills. The provider follows good recruitment and induction procedures to ensure that staff working with children are suitable. Partnerships with teachers of the school that children attend are well established. A wealth of information is shared to help children's ongoing welfare and plan experiences that continue to enhance the learning that children receive in school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The club provides a welcoming environment where children relax, play and have fun with their friends at the end of the school day. Children write their own name on the daily register as they arrive, helping them to practise their writing skills. Staff then conduct a formal register to ensure they have an accurate record of children in attendance. Children play an active role in planning the range of activities. They have immense fun experiencing the sensation of glitter foam on their hands. Children laugh as they squeeze the foam and explore making marks in it with their fingers. They positively respond to the staff's good range of quality questions to prompt their thinking skills and the genuine praise they receive for their efforts. This helps to motivate children to have a go at completing challenging games. For example, children follow instructions to flick or rotate specific parts on an electronic game at speed. Staff skilfully interact with children, especially those who require support in their play. Children are very proud of the letter they received from the Queen, thanking them for the collaborative piece of artwork they sent to her to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave very well and use good manners. Staff use a consistent approach to managing children's behaviour if required. For example, they effectively apply the same strategies used by children's teachers within their classes in school. Children also contribute to the rules of the club. Staff provide clear explanations to help children understand how to keep themselves safe and healthy. Children follow a good hygiene routine and eat a range of nutritious snacks, these are often traditional foods from other countries. Older children develop kind friendships with younger children. They welcome them to join in their play and hold doors open for them. Children are independent. They demonstrate a strong desire to carry out age-appropriate responsibilities. For example, they carefully position their bags and coat together as they arrive at the club. They also prepare their snacks and wash up their crockery and utensils when finished. Children enjoy active indoor and outdoor team games. They also make use of the extensive climbing and balancing equipment outdoors when the natural outdoor light permits them to do so safely.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | EY386153 |
| Local authority | Hertfordshire |
| Inspection number | 1059827 |
| Type of provision | Out of school provision |
| Day care type | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Registers | Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register |
| Age range of children | 4 - 11 |
| Total number of places | 24 |
| Number of children on roll | 52 |
| Name of registered person | Schoolfriend Clubs Limited |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP901397 |
| Date of previous inspection | 12 December 2012 |
| Telephone number | 07826081167 |

Schoolfriend Clubs @ St Mary's Ware was registered in 2009 and is part of a large group of Schoolfriend clubs. The club opens Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions are from 3.15pm until 5.45pm. It employs two members of staff, both of whom hold qualifications at level 3. The club has strong links with the host school and also with Kingshill Infant School which shares the same school grounds.

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