

Cool After School Club

St. Vincent de Paul RC Primary School, Bedwell Crescent, STEVENAGE, Hertfordshire, SG1 1NJ



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

12 January 2017

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding Not applicable	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager provides inspirational leadership for the dedicated and highly effective staff. They work exceptionally well as a team and there is a shared commitment to improve the quality of the provision to the highest standard.
- Children of all ages elect their peers each term, to form a child council. They help to seek each other's views and ideas for the club, through discussion and completing questionnaires. The council make effective decisions and feed these back to the staff and committee.
- The staff provide a highly stimulating environment with a wide range of activities. This helps all children engage in effective play. Children display high levels of concentration. The staff consistently reflect on the environment and the activities they offer to ensure they continue to interest and challenge all children.
- Exceptionally strong partnerships are in place between the parents and staff. Parents speak very highly of the excellent quality of care the staff provide. They feel their children are safe at the club and they are reluctant to leave until they have completed their activities.
- Systems for monitoring staff performance and supervision are thorough and successfully promote continuous professional development. Staff are very well qualified, knowledgeable and confident in addressing children's individual needs.
- Children who speak English as an additional language are supported well. Staff work very closely with parents and teachers to provide consistency in promoting their language skills. Children enjoy using a large map to mark the countries they come from. This promotes effective discussions about different families and communities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to build on children's skills and understanding of how to use technological equipment safely for learning and enjoyment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of activities, both indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's enjoyment.
- The inspector discussed the children's involvement in the adult-planned activity with the deputy manager.
- The inspector checked the evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club and of the committee members.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of persons working with children. The inspector also discussed how the manager and staff reflect on their practice.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Robust policies and procedures are consistently applied by the manager and committee to ensure that children are very well protected. Staff turnover is low. Nonetheless, rigorous recruitment and vetting procedures are in place. This helps to ensure that when new staff are required they are thoroughly checked to ensure they are suitable to work with children. The manager and staff are very passionate about their work at the club and strive for excellence. They engage in regular reflective discussions and highly value feedback from parents and children. The staff provide parents with a wealth of information, such as how to help their children stay safe online. They have identified that they want to promote this even more in the setting by teaching children how to use tablet computers safely for enjoyment and learning. The staff work in close partnership with the host school. The headteacher states how pleased he is to have such a good, safe place for his pupils to attend once the school day is over.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff provide a very well-organised environment where children have fun and play freely. Cosy areas are furnished with cushions and a variety of books are available. Children use these areas to rest or read quietly. As children engage in listening games, staff use highly effective questions to help them discuss in what context they might hear the sound. These games promote many discussions based on the world and on children's experiences. Children enjoy using their creative skills and imagination during art and craft activities. They take great care to stick pieces together and precisely draw their own designs, such as when making ladybirds. Individual year books highlight the younger children's achievements at the club. These books are regularly shared with parents. Parents say they value highly the time staff spend on observing their children at play. They comment on how reading the books and holding discussions with their child's key person helps them to understand what their children enjoy doing and how to promote play at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are keen to be outdoors, even on very cold days. They enjoy using binoculars to look for birds in the trees. The younger children are disappointed not to see a robin who regularly visits the garden. Older children explain to them that it is cold and wet and the birds are most likely sheltering in their nests. At other times of the year, children engage in gardening, growing flowers and vegetables. Children enjoy healthy meals and are highly independent as they make sandwiches or help themselves to cereal. Staff are acutely aware of children who have medical needs. They work closely with parents to develop care plans and take advice from specialist service professionals to ensure they offer the best possible care. Children's behaviour is excellent. Staff use praise effectively to reinforce positive behaviour and good manners. Children are involved in developing the club rules and values, these are displayed in written and picture form. This helps to remind children what is expected of them. They are consistently polite and considerate towards each other and are developing very effective friendships. This is particularly obvious in relationships being made between children who attend different schools.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY481104
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	988134
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	35
Number of children on roll	90
Name of registered person	Cool After School Club Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP901839
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07940 562 482

Cool After School Club was registered in 2014. The club employs four members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The club opens from Monday to Friday through school term times. Sessions are from 3.15pm to 5.45pm. The club supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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