

St James After School Club



St James C Of E Primary School, Merestones Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2RS

Inspection date	10 October 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 manager uses feedback from children, parents, staff and school staff to identify changes and improvements. She has reviewed the resources and information parents receive about the club, which has enhanced children's experiences.
- The staff have excellent relationships with the school and others who care for the children. They visit children in their classrooms to get to know them before they join the club. Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities exceptionally well. Children benefit from highly consistent experiences that meet their needs and interests extremely well.
- The manager monitors staff well and supports their continuing professional development. For example, recent training on attachment and supporting less-confident children has helped staff settle new children into the setting.
- Children have excellent attachments with the staff. Staff make sure they know what children like and need. They plan exciting and engaging activities that support children's interests, motivate them and encourage their involvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes miss chances to include more children in activities as they focus on the child they are talking to.
- Staff do not provide consistent messages for children to keep them and others safe, such as suggesting holding scissors correctly when carrying them around the setting.

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 recognising and acknowledging when children may wish to join in activities
- improve the consistency of messages for children about how to keep themselves and others safe when carrying tools and moving around the setting.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of interactions indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint evaluation of the activities with the manager.
- The inspector talked with the manager, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled paperwork, including staff records and training, attendance registers, policies and procedures, and children's records.

Inspector

Anita McKelvey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager monitors staff well and supports the development of their skills through appropriate professional development opportunities. All staff have attended recent training for keeping children safe and supporting their self-esteem. They understand fully the correct procedures for safeguarding to protect children from harm. They act quickly upon concerns about the welfare of children and keep them very safe. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff reflect well on the provision with the manager, children and parents. For example, they have reviewed the play materials and the way they are stored indoors and outdoors to make them more accessible to children, supporting their interests better.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know children extremely well. Strong partnership working with reception teachers, for example, through visits and the use of communication books, helps staff to plan exciting experiences that children enjoy and that help to build on their learning at school. Children continue to work towards achieving their next steps in their development because staff complement children's learning during their time at the club. For example, staff plan an activity for children to practise using scissors. Children fill in the dots on a dice template, cut it out then stick it together. They have great fun using a cardboard roll as a basketball hoop, throwing the dice into it and counting the spots. Children enjoy challenges, such as creating buildings and vehicles with plastic construction blocks. Outdoors staff support children to solve problems. For example, when they do not want to lose the hoop, staff help children tie it onto a ribbon, so when they roll it, it can be pulled back. Staff take an interest in what children are doing and encourage discussions, helping newer ones to get to know others and make friends.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children show care and consideration for each other. For example, older children help younger ones to put helmets on when they want to use the scooters. Other children seek help from staff when friends fall over in the playground and make sure they are alright. Children become more independent. For example, they sign themselves in when they arrive at the club and get 'toilet passes' when they need to use the bathroom. Staff talk with children about healthy food choices as they join in preparing fruit for snack or take part in cooking activities. Staff are good role models for the children and support them in thinking about how to resolve issues. For example, when children have a dispute over the construction materials, staff help them to find a solution that satisfies everyone. Children learn about the wider world and learn to cope with change. For example, they have visits from the police and fire services, see how to care for birds of prey and use different parts of the school, such as the playing fields and junior classrooms.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY493646
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	1026974
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	40
Number of children on roll	18
Name of registered person	Emma-Louise Mahon
Registered person unique reference number	RP514235
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07761055553

St James After School Club registered in 2015. It runs from St James C of E Primary School in Cheltenham and is exclusively for children who attend the school. The club is open Monday to Friday 3pm to 6pm during term time only, and Monday to Thursday between the hours of 8.30am and 5.45pm for three weeks during the summer holidays. The club employs five staff, of whom one holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 6, three hold a level 3 qualification and one is studying toward level 3.

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