

St Thomas Aquinas After School Project

St.Thomas Aquinas Combined School, St. Marys Avenue, Bletchley,
MILTON KEYNES MK3 5DT



Inspection date	10 August 2018
Previous inspection date	26 March 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Inadequate Good	4 2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Inadequate	4
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Not Applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is inadequate

- The provider has failed to notify Ofsted of changes to members of the committee, as required. As a result, Ofsted does not have the necessary information needed to check their suitability.
- Children are provided with resources for use during their activities that are not appropriate for their age or safe for their use.
- The management and staff do not have a sufficient understanding of current safeguarding issues. They fail to keep up to date with latest guidance and do not know how to identify and protect children at risk from radical or extreme views.
- The manager does not have robust procedures in place to check the ongoing suitability of staff, and there are no systems in place for the supervision and monitoring of individual staff performance.
- The provider has gained blanket consent for administering some prescription medication to children in an emergency, which is a breach of requirements. All other medication procedures are in place.
- Occasionally, during adult-led activities, children have few opportunities to choose their resources and explore and develop their ideas. Staff do not give children suitable opportunities to practise the skills that they learn at school.

It has the following strengths

- Parents and children speak warmly of the staff and enjoy coming to the after-school project.
- Staff help children to develop an interest in a healthy diet. For example, they involve children in choosing healthy snack options.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
ensure that Ofsted is provided with the required information so that the suitability of all committee members can be checked	15/08/2018
identify and minimise risks effectively so that all equipment is safe and children do not have access to hazardous substances	15/08/2018
ensure that all management and staff understand and keep up to date with safeguarding policies and procedures, including government guidance on how to identify and respond to concerns about children exposed to extreme ideas, views or behaviours	10/09/2018
ensure that the management team has robust procedures in place to check and continually monitor the ongoing suitability of staff	10/09/2018
implement effective monitoring and supervision procedures for all staff, to enable them to improve their own knowledge and practice	10/09/2018
implement effective procedures for administering medication to ensure that prescription medicines are only administered to children if prescribed by their own doctor.	15/08/2018

Inspection activities

- The inspector visited all areas of the premises used by the club.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and children, and took account of their views.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as policies and procedures, and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke with staff about their understanding of safeguarding.

Inspector

Lisa Dailey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding is ineffective. The manager is not aware of the need to check the ongoing suitability of her staff. Robust procedures are not in place to check any changes in the circumstances of staff, to ensure that they continue to be suitable to work with children. The committee, who make up the registered person, has obtained the necessary Disclosure and Barring Service checks. However, the committee has not informed Ofsted of changes to its members, who have taken on an active role in decision making at the setting, before Ofsted has been able to initiate full suitability checks. Risk assessments and checks of the suitability of equipment are not effective and, therefore, staff compromise children's safety and welfare. For example, during craft activities, children are given glue which is 'to be kept out of the reach of children'. The provider keeps a 'back-up' inhaler for children who have asthma, but has not used it. Although parents give written permission for their children to receive this, it is a breach of requirements. The staff are aware of how to recognise and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect to protect children. They have a suitable understanding of the steps to take to report concerns about a child to keep them safe. However, they do not keep their knowledge of current safeguarding issues up to date. For instance, the manager and staff do not have a secure understanding of how to recognise and protect children at risk from radical or extreme views. Self-evaluation and monitoring processes are weak. The management team has failed to identify and take effective action to address weaknesses in the quality of the provision. It has not recognised the need to support and monitor staff to improve their knowledge and skills. However, all staff have completed food hygiene training and they use this knowledge when preparing snacks for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is inadequate

Staff have a poor understanding of how children learn and develop. They have low expectations of what children can do. They do not provide adequate opportunities for children to practise the skills they have learned in school. For example, staff over direct children during activities aimed to develop their cutting skills and creativity. Staff give children specific resources instead of allowing them to choose from a limited selection. They choose coloured feathers for children and hand them to them. They also provide pre-cut templates, restricting opportunities for children to create and cut shapes themselves. Staff tell the children in what order they must complete the tasks. They intervene, sticking items onto creations which children are capable of doing themselves. The manager has recognised children's interest in physical activities and has arranged activities in the summer holiday to support their physical development. For instance, the manager organised for a professional instructor to teach children how to ride their bicycles.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

The provider does not ensure children's welfare due to the weaknesses in safeguarding practice. However, staff are kind, friendly and caring towards children, who comment that they enjoy coming to the after-school project. Children behave fairly well. Staff support them to follow the rules and boundaries of the setting. Staff do not enable

children to carry out age-appropriate tasks independently. For example, during snack time, adults put spread on toast for all children. During craft activities, adults complete tasks for children which they are capable of doing themselves.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141788
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	10060278
Type of provision	Out-of-school day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	4 - 10
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	81
Name of registered person	St Thomas Aquinas After School Project Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP517367
Date of previous inspection	26 March 2015
Telephone number	01908 373977

St. Thomas Aquinas After School Project registered 1995. It operates from 7.30am to 8.45am and from 3pm to 6pm during term time, and from 8.30am to 6pm in the school holidays. There are eight members of staff, two of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 5.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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