

St Thomas Aquinas After School Project

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



Inspection date	9 May 2019
Previous inspection date	3 December 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
Effectiveness of 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 kind and caring staff have good relationships with children, who are settled and happy at the club. They enjoy their time playing with friends and have fun as they engage in a wide variety of activities.
- Children behave well. They are kind and respectful towards one another and understand the clear boundaries and expectations that staff have of them. They take turns with resources and games.
- Risk assessments are undertaken by staff to identify and minimise potential dangers. Children are appropriately supervised at all times. Good arrangements are in place to ensure children's safe arrival and collection times from the club.
- The manager uses valuable feedback from parents, staff and children to reflect on practice and accurately assess the quality of provision
- Parents report that they are happy with the care their children receive at the club.
- Staff do not always involve children in the planning of activities to support their interests. Not enough information is gained from parents about what children like and dislike when they first start.
- On occasions, staff do not consistently challenge and enhance children's ideas and play experiences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gain more information from parents about their children's interests and involve children in planning the activities in their club
- enhance how adults interact with children to offer further challenge and enrich children's play experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the play hall and outdoor area.
- The inspector held discussions with children, parents and staff.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at observation files, monitoring systems, the self-evaluation form and a selection of policies and children's records.

Inspector
Kim Mundy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a good understanding of the procedures to follow should they have concerns about children's welfare. The manager understands her responsibility to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. She follows an effective system for staff recruitment and induction. Since the last inspection, the manager has made changes to improve practice. Staff have termly one-to-one meetings and yearly staff appraisals with the manager to support their ongoing performance and suitability. Staff teach children about personal safety. For example, children practise the emergency evacuation procedure, so they know what to do in the event of a fire.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children show good levels of engagement at the club. There is a wide range of activities available for them to choose from. Cooking, dancing, needlework and football are popular activities. Staff encourage children to develop their imaginations. For example, they use construction toys to create three-dimensional models, such as helicopters. Children enjoy creative activities and proudly share their achievements with others. For instance, they show and talk about their robots and drawings. Staff support children during quiet activities and this is illustrated as they read in the cosy book corner. Children play cooperatively together with their friends and enjoy making dinners and playing with dolls as they act out their make-believe stories.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children arrive excitedly and settle quickly at the relaxed and friendly club. Staff prioritise children's safety and physical well-being. For example, children have been finding out about how to administer first aid, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the recovery position. Children particularly enjoy physical activity when playing outdoors in the school playground. They have a range of play equipment to choose from. For instance, children enjoy hopscotch, ball games, balancing and climbing. Children choose and help to prepare healthy snacks, such as vegetables to dip. They say they particularly like scrambled eggs and bacon for breakfast. Children have good opportunities to build on their understanding of diversity. Staff encourage children to celebrate their differences and similarities. They make crafts related to cultural events, such as Diwali and Easter.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141788
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	10089031
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Out-of-school day care
Age range of children	4 - 7
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	3 December 2018
Telephone number	01908 373977

St Thomas Aquinas After School Project registered in 1995. It is located in Bletchley, Milton Keynes. The breakfast club operates from 7.30am to 8.45am and the after school club operates from 3pm to 6pm during term time. The holiday club operates from 8.30am to 6pm in the school holidays. There are eight members of staff, four of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above.

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