

Inspection of The Den

St. Johns Mead School, Hounds Road, Bristol BS37 6EE

Inspection date:

31 October 2019

**The quality and
standards of early
years provision**

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

The over-subscribed club is extremely popular with parents and children. Staff provide a wonderfully welcoming and inclusive provision which is wheelchair accessible. Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the club. They settle quickly and are eager to join in with their friends. Parents are complimentary about the care provided by the staff. They report that they can go to work knowing their children are 'happy and well looked after'. Staff are kind and are excellent role models. They interact well with children and take a genuine interest in what they say and do.

Children play with a vast array of interesting toys and resources, both indoors and outside. Their behaviour is exemplary and they care about each other. Children share and take turns and are respectful of each other's differences. Older children are mindful of the needs of the younger children. They have a can-do attitude, which is demonstrated when they keep trying to master their skills of bobbing for apples, during a Halloween activity. Children make their own rules, such as no running inside, which helps keep them safe in the club.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Staff know the children very well. Their close relationships foster children's confidence and well-being. Staff gather useful information about children's likes, dislikes and interests before they start. This helps them offer a tailored approach to meet children's individual needs.
- Staff use their knowledge of what children like and can do to plan interesting activities that keep them engaged. For example, the inspection took place at Halloween, and children enjoyed drawing faces on pumpkins and scooping out seeds in preparation for cutting faces into lanterns. They also learned about size and weight and talked about pumpkins being smaller, larger and heavier.
- Staff help children to understand about the wider world. For example, at the time of the inspection the Rugby World Cup was being played in Japan. This was an excellent opportunity for children to learn about different countries, modes of travel and inclement weather.
- Children's health and well-being are positively supported. Children enjoy being active in the large enclosed outside area. They develop their physical skills. For example, they climb on the structure, play ball games and take part in parachute activities with staff. Children also benefit from the expertise of a football coach, who helps them to develop their skills further. Children are encouraged to drink water to keep them hydrated.
- The managers have an accurate overview of what works well and areas they need to improve. They continue to seek advice and support from local

organisations to help keep staff up to date with current practice issues.

- The managers are dedicated and committed to provide an excellent service for families and children. They regularly evaluate the way they work and strive for continuous improvements. They meet with staff and seek the views of parents, to help them gain ideas and suggestions to analyse areas of improvement. As a result, the setting has extended the opening hours further, to cater for the needs of working parents.
- Staff have high expectations for children's behaviour. Children show a good understanding of the rules and boundaries. For example, they take turns on age-appropriate video games, play cooperatively and share toys.
- Staff have strong links with the school where children attend. They gather and share information about children to make sure their individual needs are met.
- Staff actively welcome and include all children and meet the needs of those with special educational needs and/or disabilities very well. Children have lots of opportunities to learn about their similarities and differences.
- Children develop critical thinking skills and show high levels of perseverance. For example, younger children make a train track and successfully work out that they need a curved piece to make a circular track. Staff provide praise and encouragement and only intervene when their help is needed.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff attend training in child protection to keep their knowledge and understanding up to date. Staff are aware of the signs that may alert them to concerns about a child's welfare and know the procedures to follow to keep children safe. The premises are secure and only known adults collect children. Staff have effective risk assessments and are vigilant in their supervision of the children, to ensure they are kept safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY440269
Local authority	South Gloucestershire
Inspection number	10071968
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	3 to 11
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	The Den Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP901966
Telephone number	07708175730/ 07791165559
Date of previous inspection	27 October 2015

Information about this early years setting

The Den registered in 2012. It operates from St John's Mead Church of England Primary School in Chipping Sodbury. The club is open from 7am until 8.50am and from 3.15pm until 6pm on weekdays during term time. The holiday club opens from 7am until 6pm during most school holidays. The club employs six staff. Of these, one holds a qualification at level 6 and five hold level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Vanessa Redmond

Inspection activities

- The inspector met with both managers and discussed how the club is led and managed.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children.
- Documentation was sampled. The inspector looked at evidence of staff suitability, accident records and the safeguarding policy.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The views of parents were sought.

We carried out this inspection 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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