

Inspection of School's Out Activities At Colchester Royal Grammar School

Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3ND

Inspection date:

19 February 2020

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children clearly enjoy their time at camp. They are happy, settled and eager to take part in the wide range of interesting activities on offer. Each week is based around a theme, such as inventions and inventors. Children have opportunities to develop new skills and use resources they may not have used before. For example, they use tripod easels and water paints to create paintings of rockets. Children are very well behaved and readily share resources with each other.

Children come to the camp from numerous schools; many come back to the camp at each school holiday keen to see their friends from other schools. They happily chat to each other and with children they have just met. Children eagerly rise to challenges that staff provide. For example, staff ask them to invent and draw a fantasy robot and then create the robot model in coloured dough. Children demonstrate a keenness to draw their interpretation of a robot. They share ideas, which helps them to develop their designs further. For example, when children suggest including legs and hand controls, their friends adapt their drawings to include these features.

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

- Staff build excellent relationships with the children. They know their characters and interests, helping them to support children in their chosen activities. For example, staff offer suggestions and advice to help children build large structures from bricks and other construction resources.
- Children enjoy exciting, age-appropriate physical challenges. For example, children aged seven and over participate in energetic dodgeball and inflatable wipe-out games. Younger children jump around on bouncy castles and take part in life-size 'hungry hippo' games.
- The provider identifies different age groups by colour, which helps to ensure that children enjoy age-appropriate activities and experiences. He encourages teenagers to take part in the 'Next Gen' programme, enabling them to volunteer at the camp and work through a written development programme at the same time. This helps to provide early career opportunities, such as possible employment.
- All staff receive regular supervision and opportunities to attend training to help develop their skills. For example, some staff choose to learn how to teach children archery. Other staff complete lifeguard training and are then able to supervise children swimming. This helps to provide children with an ever-increasing range of activities.
- Children and staff make full use of the facilities and space at the school from which they operate. For example, they use the canteen area to run a tuck shop

and provide space for children to eat their snacks and packed lunches. Staff take children over to another building to use the hall for dance lessons. The main stage area provides a venue for the end of week show, where children show off their new skills and achievements to their parents and carers.

- Partnerships with parents are very good. Parents receive feedback at the end of each day about what their children have done and are encouraged to provide their thoughts and ideas to staff. Children complete feedback cards to share what they have enjoyed, which helps staff and the management to reflect on what they offer and make changes where necessary.
- A highly organised morning arrival routine ensures that parents know where to leave their children. They receive a card with a security code written on it, which they repeat to staff when they collect their children at the end of the day. This helps to maintain high levels of security to keep children safe.
- Staff work closely together to offer children a varied, interesting and well-organised range of activities. These change daily, helping to excite and occupy children. Large trolleys full of resources enable staff to quickly alter activities according to children's interests and their needs. For example, activities planned for outside play can be changed for indoor resources when the weather disrupts plans.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have a good understanding of child protection and wider safeguarding issues. They are aware of the possible signs that may indicate that a child is at risk of harm and the reporting procedures to follow should they have any concerns about children. Risk assessments are ongoing and help to keep children safe while they are at the camp. Staff regularly carry out head counts as they take children to different areas, such as the canteen or outside. This helps to ensure that all children are accounted for and safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY548121
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10106840
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Out-of-school day care
Age range of children	4 to 16
Total number of places	98
Number of children on roll	300
Name of registered person	School's Out Activities Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP548120
Telephone number	07766 220075
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

School's Out Activities At Colchester Royal Grammar School registered in 2017 and is based within Colchester Royal Grammar School in Colchester, Essex. It operates Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, during school holidays only. The camp does not operate during the Christmas holiday.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sue Mann

Inspection activities

- The provider showed the inspector around the camp, and discussed the different activities that children are able to take part in.
- The inspector observed children playing and chatting to staff.
- The inspector spoke to staff, the provider and senior managers.
- The inspector sampled policies and procedures and checked evidence of staff's suitability to work with children.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2020