

# Inspection of Play Academy

Calverley C Of E Primary School, Town Gate, Calverley, Pudsey, Yorkshire LS28 5NF

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Inspection date:

31 March 2022

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

**This  
inspection**

**Met**

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Previous  
inspection

Not applicable

## **What is it like to attend this early years setting?**

### **This provision meets requirements**

Children are happy and enjoy their time in this welcoming and fun environment. The sound of their cheerful chatter and laughter can be heard throughout the session. Staff play alongside children and support them to feel safe and secure. Children participate in a wide range of activities, which are planned around what they are interested in. For example, children decorate eggs for Easter and create innovative models using a wide range of materials. Children concentrate on their chosen tasks well and proudly show their creations to each other, visitors and staff.

Children are sociable and build close friendships with each other. They play cooperatively together and greet visitors with curiosity. Children confidently talk about their experiences at the setting and what they like to do. They say that they like coming to club and that the staff look after them well. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the club remained open to key-worker children in the area. The manager and staff continually reviewed their safety measures and hygiene procedures. For example, they re-organised the areas for children of different ages, to help to minimise the possible spread of infection and keep children safe.

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

- Staff consider children's individual needs well. They support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities well in the setting. Staff make adaptations to help all children feel part of the activities and experiences they offer at the club. Parents also comment that their children's individual needs are met well by the staff and manager.
- Children demonstrate good behaviour and show exceptional manners. They listen carefully to staff and are aware of what is expected of them. For instance, children help to create the club rules and remind each other of these frequently.
- Staff are calm and positive role models. They know children well as they hold conversations with them, and show a genuine interest in their lives. Staff chat about what children have been learning at school, their interests, hobbies and experiences at home.
- Staff provide children with a variety of healthy snacks. Children make choices about what they would like to eat. They confidently help themselves to a range of fruit and vegetables at snack time. Mealtimes are a social occasion, where children engage in conversations with their friends and staff.
- Children have plenty of opportunities to be active and get fresh air each day. They access a large outdoor area, where they can run around and play games, such as football, catch and skipping. During the darker evenings, children explore the outdoor area with torches and enjoy star gazing.
- Children have quieter areas, where they can relax after a busy day at school.

They enjoy lounging on beanbags and cushions in the setting's newly developed 'cosy club'. Children watch movies together and read books to their friends as they unwind.

- Parents are happy with the club and praise the friendly, caring and professional staff. They state that staff get to know their children extremely well, and provide them with interesting and fun activities and experiences. Parents say that their children like attending the club and always leave happy and smiling.
- Staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the club. They say that managers are supportive, and they have regular meetings to discuss the setting and children's needs. However, managers do not consistently target professional development to support less-experienced staff to extend their knowledge and build their confidence further.
- Managers are passionate and want children to enjoy their time in the club. They work well together, and reflect on the setting and experiences that they provide. Staff seek the views of staff, children and parents when making improvements. For example, after consultation with children, a 'buddy system' has been introduced, so that older children can help the younger children to settle into the setting.

## Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities around safeguarding. They know the action to take if they have a concern about a child's safety or welfare. Staff have a good knowledge of broader safeguarding issues and what to do should they have a concern about a colleague. The premises are secure, and only known adults can collect children. Staff carry out effective risk assessments of the premises. Children are always supervised, and staff support children to keep themselves safe at the club. For example, staff encourage children to wear high-visibility vests in the playground and when being collected from school, so that they are easily visible. The manager shares safeguarding information and updates with staff during team meetings and discussions. There are robust recruitment procedures in place. This helps to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	2537067
<b>Local authority</b>	Leeds
<b>Inspection number</b>	10215233
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Out-of-school day care
<b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b>	4 to 11
<b>Total number of places</b>	85
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	166
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Play Academy Limited
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	2537066
<b>Telephone number</b>	07572301893
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable

## Information about this early years setting

Play Academy registered in 2019. It provides out-of-school care and is located in Pudsey, Yorkshire. The club employs 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above, including two who hold qualified teacher status. The club opens during term time from 7.30am to 9am on Monday to Friday, and 3.20pm to 6pm on Monday to Thursday, and 3.20pm to 5.30pm on Friday.

## Information about this inspection

### Inspector

Clare Cotton

## Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector viewed all areas of the setting used by the children and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and manager to discuss the leadership and management of the setting. She sampled documentation, including suitability checks of staff and first-aid certificates.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Children interacted with the inspector during the inspection and talked about what they enjoy doing at the setting.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection to take account of their views.

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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