

# Inspection of Pioneer Childcare - St Joseph's

St. Josephs Rc Primary School, Hazelgrove Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex RH16 3PQ

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Inspection date:

16 June 2022

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

**This inspection**

**Not met (with actions)**

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Previous inspection

Not applicable

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

### **This provision does not meet requirements**

Children are happy and eager to participate in the club activities. However, there are significant weaknesses in the management of the setting, which has an impact on the safety of children. This is particularly in relation to safeguarding procedures and risk assessments. The manager fails to ensure the premises are secure and that unauthorised persons cannot enter the areas where children play. This puts children at risk, particularly when they play outdoors.

Children have a wide range of activities and resources that they can choose from. They settle quickly and have lots of opportunities to play games and relax with their friends. For example, children take part enthusiastically in a daily challenge activity and happily play card games and engage in a variety of physical activities outdoors. Children learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, staff take time to show children how to use scissors safely.

Overall, children behave well, listen to instructions and have fun. They play cooperatively together and learn to take turns and to follow instructions during games, such as snap and matching pairs. Staff set clear expectations for behaviour and are good role models. Children respond positively to staff when they are given guidance. For example, they help to tidy up at the end of the session. Children are friendly and welcome new children to the club. They say how they like making new friends from other schools.

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

- Senior leaders do not evaluate the setting well enough to ensure that they are meeting all legal requirements. For example, the manager does not ensure that the premises are fully secure and leaves security gates open and unlocked. This means that staff do not always know when unauthorised persons walk into the playground where children play.
- Staff talk to children about how they can keep themselves healthy. They provide plenty of opportunities for fresh air and exercise. Children have access to water throughout the session and staff remind them to remain hydrated, particularly after outdoor activities. However, despite being responsible for the preparation of food, staff do not have sufficient knowledge to inform their understanding about safe food practices. This increases the risk of contamination and compromises the children's health and well-being.
- While staff do complete risk assessments these are not effective, as not all risks are identified by staff. This results in children's safety being compromised. In particular, staff do not ensure that the premises are secure and that food and hygiene procedures are being followed.

- Staff have a good understanding of children's interests and use this information to plan activities that children enjoy. For example, recently children have shown a keen interest in being creative. They independently access a range of resources and confidently use scissors, glue and tape to make their own creations. Staff encourage children to problem solve and to work out how they can secure their pictures to lollipop sticks.
- Staff work well with the on-site schools. They communicate effectively with school staff about what the children have been doing. This helps to ensure that children's care is tailored to their individual needs and helps develop a consistent approach. Staff are kind and join in with the children's play.
- Parents and children speak positively about their experiences at the club. Parents report that staff are friendly and approachable, and that their children enjoy attending. Children comment that they like the club and enjoy the creative activities on offer.
- The management team have regular supervision meetings with staff to monitor their performance. Staff have access to ongoing training. However, managers do not make the most effective use of the supervision process to ensure all staff are clear about their key responsibilities and to identify training which would reinforce and support staff practice.

## Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Managers and staff know how to recognise signs that a child might be at risk of abuse. However, leaders and managers do not robustly promote a culture of curiosity or vigilance in regard to safeguarding children. They do not ensure that the premises are secure or that the health and hygiene policies are fully implemented. Some staff are not clear about the actions they must take should an unauthorised person enter the club. This compromises children's safety. Nevertheless, effective recruitment processes are implemented and appropriate steps taken to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children.

## What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

	<b>Due date</b>
improve the safety of the premises, with particular regard to security procedures, to ensure that children cannot leave the premises and to prevent unauthorised persons entering the premises	20/06/2022

make effective use of risk assessments to identify and minimise potential risks to children's health and safety in a timely manner	23/06/2022
improve supervision processes to help all staff gain a clear understanding of their key responsibilities and build on their confidence in their abilities to fulfil their roles.	23/06/2022

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY561505
<b>Local authority</b>	West Sussex
<b>Inspection number</b>	10194159
<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>	40
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	356
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Pioneer Childcare Limited
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP900510
<b>Telephone number</b>	01444 411388
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable

## Information about this early years setting

Pioneer Childcare - St Joseph's registered in 2018. It operates from St. Josephs Primary School in Haywards Heath, Sussex. The setting provides before- and after-school care from 7am to 8.45am and from 3.15pm to 6.30pm from Monday to Friday in school term times. The club employs three members of staff. Of these, one member of staff holds an appropriate level 2 qualification.

## Information about this inspection

### Inspector

Joanne Allen

## 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 setting and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together. The inspector observed staff practices and considered the impact these have on children's play experiences.
- The manager and the inspector completed a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector held discussions with the management, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector sampled some of the setting's documentation, including staff suitability, and the recruitment procedures.

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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