

Inspection of School's Out @ St Teresa's

St. Teresa's Primary School, Stanley Grove, Penwortham, PRESTON PR1 0JH

Inspection date:

25 October 2022

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

**This
inspection**

Not met (with actions)

Previous
inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision does not meet requirements

While children benefit greatly from many of the fun-filled activities provided by staff at the club, aspects of children's safety are not fully assured. The management of procedures, such as for staff recruitment and risk assessment, is not as rigorous as possible. Other procedures are not robust enough to ensure that all children's needs are understood and met. For example, weak enrolment arrangements mean that staff do not always get all of the information needed to help them become confident in providing the right level of support. This is most significant for children who have health conditions or special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

That said, the friendly and caring staff provide children with an abundance of interesting opportunities to play and have fun together. As a result, children settle and get involved quickly. Children say that they enjoy coming to the club and spending time with friends. All children, regardless of their differences, play well together and are fully included in all that the club has to offer. They are relaxed and chat happily as they join staff in the highly imaginative games they plan. For example, children enjoy taking part in the 'pin the eye on the monster' game and the 'eye on spoon' race as part of their Halloween-themed activities. Children have an array of activities that support them to be physically active and to develop their social skills. Children behave very well, use good manners and know what is expected of them.

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

- The club remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Leaders worked hard to overcome barriers, and they continued to provide some childcare while preventing the spread of infection. However, changes in staff and management arrangements have resulted in some inconsistency. Between them, leaders have not identified where their procedures are not sufficiently robust. This has resulted in some requirements not being met.
- Some experienced staff have worked in the setting for a number of years. They know many of the children and families well. Staff receive regular supervision and support to improve. However, procedures for recruiting newer staff have lacked rigour. Although all staff have had checks carried out through the Disclosure and Barring Service, other records to demonstrate their safe recruitment were not available for inspection.
- Not all children's individual needs are consistently well understood. This is because the admission procedure is not effective in obtaining all required information. For example, parents are asked at enrolment about children's health and allergies. However, they are not requested to provide information about children's learning needs or behaviours with which they may need extra

help. This means staff do not always have the details they need to know how to provide the best possible support to individual children.

- While some information is obtained about children's allergies and health needs, the procedures for managing medicines and significant medical conditions are weak. Leaders do not ensure that medicines are stored as securely as possible. They do not consistently seek written parental permission to administer each particular medicine that may be needed in club. Furthermore, staff do not receive clear instruction or training to help ensure that they are confident to administer emergency medicines safely.
- Although staff know about children's food allergies, these are not always rigorously managed. When children have significant allergies, the level of risk is not consistently understood. For example, staff are unsure if the risk of reaction is purely through ingestion. Parents are not regularly reminded that the school and club is a nut-free zone. As a result, in holiday club, other children's packed lunch items may contain nuts, and staff are unaware of this potential hazard. This poor management hinders children's safety.
- Despite some weaknesses in management, children enjoy attending the club and make friendships beyond those they have from the school they attend. Children collaborate in role play and team games. Older children are particularly nurturing and support younger friends with tricky tasks, such as completing word searches. They make friendship bracelets for those who are special to them. Children are developing positive social skills.
- Staff provide fun activities that broaden children's experiences. For example, children enjoy baking, gardening and crafting. Children also benefit from visitors to the setting. For example, they learn skills from the visiting circus school and enjoy handling animals brought by the petting zoo. Staff successfully weave literacy into play. For example, children write letters to pen pals at other clubs. These valuable experiences help children to make connections in other aspects of their learning in school.
- Children benefit from plenty of time spent outside in the fresh air. Regular sports sessions run by the sports coach help children to be physically active. Firm favourites include ball games, sports day races, parachute games and den-building exercises. Staff also promote children's mental health, and children enjoy activities such as yoga. Children's physical development is promoted well.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Weak management of the provision for children means that there are unnecessary risks which hinder children's safety. That said, children say they feel safe in the setting and know they can approach staff with any concerns. Leaders ensure that all staff understand how to spot indicators that a child may be at risk of harm. They know how to report any concerns they identify, including about adults they may work with. Lead staff access a wide range of safeguarding training. They make very effective use of their links with other professionals, to discuss emerging concern.

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:

	Due date
implement robust recruitment checks on all staff who work with, or are in regular contact with, children to ensure their suitability	22/11/2022
ensure that all required records are always easily accessible and available for inspection	22/11/2022
tighten enrolment procedures so that all required information about each child is obtained and helps staff to better understand and meet children's individual needs	22/11/2022
improve the management of medicines, ensuring that they are stored safely and only administered when written parental permission for each particular medicine has been obtained	22/11/2022
ensure that staff are provided with specific instruction about a child's need for medicines and training to enable them to administer medicines safely	22/11/2022
improve the risk management of food allergies, ensuring that staff fully understand the nature of each allergy and how to prevent reactions, including when children bring food items into the club.	22/11/2022

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY448639
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	10233836
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 at time of inspection	4 to 11
Total number of places	80
Number of children on roll	280
Name of registered person	Schools Out Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP901044
Telephone number	07548239349
Date of previous inspection	26 October 2016

Information about this early years setting

School's Out @ St Teresa's registered in 2012 and operates from a designated room within St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Penwortham. It is one of three childcare settings operated by the provider. The club employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 2 and above, including one at level 6 and one at level 4. The club opens from Monday to Friday, during term time. Sessions are from 7.30am until 9am and 3pm until 6pm. The holiday club opens during most holidays, from 7.30m until 6pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Angela Rowley

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The inspector spoke to children, to find out about their time at the setting.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Leadership and management meetings were held with the manager in charge at the time of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.

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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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
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