

Inspection of The Under The Sea Club

St. Marys Primary School, Silkham Road, Oxted RH8 0NP

Inspection date:

8 June 2023

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

**This
inspection**

Not met (with actions)

Previous
inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision does not meet requirements

Children's safety is compromised. The procedures in place for children arriving and leaving the club are not secure. The organisation of some routines does not ensure children's safety and well-being. Despite this, children confidently enter the busy club and choose if they want to be outside or inside. They go to the relevant room depending on where they choose to play. Children wait until everyone has arrived before they engage in their chosen activity. Inside, children explore a range of craft activities. They decorate sponges with different-coloured paints before printing onto paper. Other children make small creations using small building bricks.

Outside, children have access to the school playground, field and playing court. They are assigned to a designated member of staff and activity. For example, some children choose sports in the playing court. Other children choose to use the large apparatus. They confidently climb up the climbing wall or swing on the overhead bars. Children are supported by staff in each of the areas. However, there is not enough staff to effectively supervise all children all of the time, due to the layout of the premises.

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

- The arrangements in place for when children are picked up from the club are not robust. For example, parents know the code for the gate and can enter and exit the premises without staff knowing. This has an impact on children's safety.
- Risk assessments are not robust. The management team have not taken all reasonable steps to ensure children are not exposed to risk. For example, during transition times such as pick-up time, children and their parents can exit the premises without staff being aware. This compromises children's safety.
- The management team have identified areas they feel need improving. They understand staff have not been receiving regular supervision and have a plan in place to ensure this is actioned. Despite this, staff feel supported in their role and understand their responsibilities. They attend regular online training and enjoy putting new ideas into practice.
- Children understand the routines and boundaries for where they can and cannot play. For example, they know that they must follow a set path back into the club. They know to line up when told, and wait to be called inside to get their snack. However, children are not always adequately supervised during this time. Staff are not able to meet the needs of all children. Children are, at times, not in sight or sound of staff. This places children at risk.
- Children have access to a large outdoor area in addition to the classrooms used by the club. However, there is not enough indoor space to accommodate the children that attend. For example, children have to choose if they want to be

outside or inside for the entire session. This compromises the health and safety of the children.

- Children's physical development is promoted well. They independently choose what activity they want to do, such as the large climbing equipment or ball games in the sports court. Children take part in a variety of activities that support their fine motor skills. For example, they take their time to wind wool around sticks, and confidently explain how they make 'worry catchers'.
- Children confidently talk about the things they like the most at the club. They talk about how much they enjoy playing sports with their friends. Children understand the rules. They know they must tell staff if they need to leave an area where they are playing. For example, they let staff know if they need to go to the toilet.
- Parents are happy with the club and report that their children are happy and enjoy their time there. Parents receive regular newsletters which include updates. They feel informed about what is happening at the club.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The designated lead for safeguarding knows how to respond to any concerns raised about the children's welfare. Staff know how to identify signs of abuse and how to record their concerns. They know where to find the information in relation to reporting to the local safeguarding partners. Despite this, children's safety is compromised. The procedure for pick-up time is not robust. Parents are able to freely enter and exit the premises. In addition, risk assessments are not secure and children are exposed to risk. Staff are not deployed effectively to meet the needs of all children at all times, bearing in mind the premises and the activities that are provided. This puts children at risk.

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
ensure procedures for drop off and pick-up times are robust so that no one is able to enter the premises without staff being aware	12/06/2023
ensure risk assessments are robust in order to identify all risks, particularly during transition times, and are understood by all staff	22/06/2023

improve staff deployment to ensure the safety and welfare of all children, bearing in mind the activities provided and the areas of the premises used	22/06/2023
ensure there is sufficient space indoors for the numbers of children attending at any one time.	22/06/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	2638173
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	10293164
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	5 to 11
Total number of places	69
Number of children on roll	126
Name of registered person	Sussex School Solutions Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2638172
Telephone number	07368822330
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The Under The Sea Club operates from St Mary's school in Oxted, Surrey. The club provides before- and after-school care from Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 8.30am and 3.15pm to 6.15pm, term time only. The club is also open in the school holidays. There are 10 staff, of whom two hold childcare qualifications.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Pippa Clark

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 setting.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.

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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