

Inspection of The Under The Sea Club

Dudley Infant School, Harold Road, Hastings TN35 5NJ

Inspection date: 13 July 2023

**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 are happy and enjoy their time at the club. Staff provide a warm and welcoming environment in which children can relax and play after a busy day at school. For example, younger children rest and read books in the cosy cushioned area.

Children are well mannered and polite. Staff give consistent messages about the high expectations of behaviour. These messages are similar to those of the schools the children attend. This provides consistency and helps children to understand boundaries. Furthermore, children are guided by the 'Fun Agreement' that sets out the rules of the club and helps them to behave well.

Children have good listening skills, which is seen as they carefully follow instructions from staff when learning to dribble a football. Furthermore, they demonstrate high levels of concentration, such as when completing puzzles.

Children play an active role in the club. For example, they attend termly meetings with staff, where they discuss what activities, resources and meals they would like. Staff use this information to make changes, such as adding new foods to menu plans. This enhances children's self-esteem and teaches them to respect the views of others.

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

- Staff know the children in their care well and have established strong bonds with them. There are effective systems in place that successfully promote children's emotional well-being. For example, 'club ambassadors' look after less confident children and those who are new to the club. Furthermore, staff receive daily updates about children's time at school from class teachers, which helps to promote continuity in care and learning.
- Staff provide children with plenty of opportunities to keep themselves healthy. For example, on arrival at the club, children enjoy some fruit and a refreshing drink before they start to play. In addition, children spend long periods of time playing outdoors where they enjoy free play and learning sports skills.
- Children are encouraged to be independent. For example, they attend to their own hygiene needs and choose what they want to play with. However, occasionally, staff undertake tasks that children could do for themselves, such as preparing and serving food at mealtimes. This means children's independence is not always fully promoted.
- Staff help children to develop their confidence effectively. This is demonstrated when children enthusiastically share their thoughts and experiences of the after-

school club with visitors. Additionally, staff are good role models for children. For instance, they are polite and respectful, which helps children to enhance their social skills.

- Staff plan a range of activities for children to enjoy while at the club. These are fully inclusive and accessible to all children. For example, children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, enjoy ordering food with a selection of toppings at the role-play pizzeria.
- Staff encourage children to talk about their feelings. If children struggle to behave in line with expectations, staff support them to reflect on their actions and suggest more positive ways to manage their emotions.
- Parents are extremely happy with the care their children receive. They comment on how children have lots of fun and thoroughly enjoy their time at the club. Additionally, they praise the quick and effective communication they receive from staff, which helps them to keep up to date with club news.
- Leaders and managers have strong links with the host school. They share information, such as targeted plans, to help ensure they meet the needs of all children attending.
- The manager evaluates the provision regularly, which includes the views of parents and children. This enables staff to plan experiences that follow children's interests, helping them to fully engage with the activities on offer.
- Leaders and managers use a range of effective strategies, such as observations of practice, to monitor staff performance. This helps to identify any future training needs, which in turn helps to develop staff's knowledge and skills.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff provide a safe and secure environment for children. Deployment of staff is effective and helps to ensure that children are supervised and kept safe. Furthermore, staff complete risk assessments to help identify and minimise any hazards for children. Staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities to keep children safe. They know the signs and symptoms to look out for that might suggest a child may be at risk of harm. They demonstrate their knowledge of the processes to follow if they are concerned about children. This includes the agencies to contact if there is an allegation against a staff member.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2673054
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	10302659
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 8
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	54
Name of registered person	Sussex School Solutions Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2638172
Telephone number	07359486914
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The Under The Sea Club operates from Dudley Infant School, in Hastings, East Sussex. It is part of the Premier Education chain. The club provides before- and after-school care, Monday to Friday, from 7.45am to 8.45am and 3.15pm to 6.15 pm, during term time. The club employs three staff.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Michaela Borland

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.
- Children spoke with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The management team discussed the leadership and management of the provision with the inspector.

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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