

Inspection of Alphabet After School Club

Kelvedon St. Mary's Primary Academy, St. Mary's Road, Kelvedon, Essex CO5 9DS

Inspection date:

23 November 2023

The quality and standards of early years provision

This inspection

Met

Previous inspection

Not Met (enforcement)

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children are collected from their classes by familiar staff before walking to the club building. Some staff who work at the club also work at the school. This means that children are supported by adults who know them well. Children are allocated a key person, who is responsible for their care and well-being. This helps provide children with familiar faces and offers them consistency.

Children take part in a wide range of activities in both the indoor and outside environment. Staff plan and provide a range of activities that take into consideration children's interests. For example, when children wish to play with the school outdoor play equipment, staff take the children outside and ensure there is an activity to meet all children's interests.

Children demonstrate their independence and willingly help staff during the session. Children hang up their coats and bags on the rack provided and help staff set out tables and chairs in preparation for snack time. Children follow instructions well. Staff clap their hands to gain children's attention and the children are still, ready for instruction. When children become overly loud, staff gain their attention by clapping and explaining to children when they need to lower the volume of their voices, so that others can enjoy their games.

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

- Since the last inspection, the club has worked alongside the local authority to address the actions raised. Staff and the committee have attended further training on the club's policies and procedures. This has ensured that they have a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Suitability checks have been carried out for those who have oversight and management of the club, as required.
- Children have good opportunities to build on their social skills as they interact with one another. Children enjoy each other's company and have developed good relationships. They are kind to their peers. Staff are good role models for children. They encourage children to use good manners. Children sit together at snack time. Staff encourage children to make choices regarding food. Children use this time to talk about their day with their friends.
- Staff take time to get to know the children well. They give children one-to-one time, which allows children to talk about their experiences, both inside and outside the club. Staff show a genuine interest in children's lives. For example, children bring in their rosettes that they have gained outside the club. Other children excitedly talk about taking part in rugby and how much they have enjoyed it. Staff spend time talking about these interests and celebrating their

achievements. This helps children to build pride in their successes outside the club.

- Staff help children to be aware of their own safety. For example, when children line up ready to go back into the club hall, staff explain to younger children why they must wait for everyone to be ready before they leave the playground. When children use the outdoor gym equipment, staff give them appropriate explanations about how they can keep themselves safe. Children respond positively to these routines and boundaries, to keep themselves and others safe.
- Staff have a good partnership with the host school. They liaise well at the end of the school day and share information. This helps to ensure that staff know how to meet children's individual needs and promotes continuity of care.
- The manager has started to implement a programme of professional development with the staffing team. Staff have attended safeguarding training to further develop their knowledge. This has had a positive impact on the staff, who explain this has made them more professionally curious. The manager intends to build on these supervision meetings to help identify staff's individual training needs to help provide children with the best possible experiences at the club.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff demonstrate a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe. They have completed additional training to widen their knowledge of other safeguarding issues that pose a risk to children, such as the 'Prevent' duty. Telephone numbers of agencies that deal with child protection are displayed. Staff have a good understanding of the signs and indicators that may mean a child is at risk of harm. They know where to report concerns they may have about a child in their care or an adult working with children. This promotes children's safety and welfare.

Setting details

Unique reference number	203407
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10316150
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	40
Number of children on roll	102
Name of registered person	The Alphabet After School Club Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP909899
Telephone number	07751 382315
Date of previous inspection	8 March 2023

Information about this early years setting

Alphabet After School Club registered in 2000. The club employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The club opens from Monday to Friday, during term time. Sessions are from 7.45am until 9am for the breakfast club, 3pm until 6pm for the after-school club, and 8am until 6pm for the holiday scheme.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Shelly McDougall

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued 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 told the inspector about their friends and what they like to do when they are at the club.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during 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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