

# Inspection of PLAY at St Bernadette's

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, Preston Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 6UT

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Inspection date: 28 May 2024

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

**This inspection**

**Met**

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Previous inspection

Not applicable

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

### **This provision meets requirements**

Children demonstrate that they are happy and settled at the club. Staff provide motivating activities which children thoroughly enjoy. Staff encourage children to widen their circle of friends, which helps support children's self-esteem and confidence. Staff listen to the opinions and thoughts of children and take into consideration the activities that children suggest that they would like to do. Children are actively involved in planning, which helps to keep them engaged and happy. Staff have high expectations for children's behaviour and model this very well. Consequently, children behave exceptionally well. They are kind to each other and very polite. Children enthusiastically help clear away games and resources when they have finished playing with them.

Staff have clear bonds with the children. They take time to get to know the children they care for. As a result, children's emotional health is very well supported. For example, when children become upset, staff listen to them and discuss feelings with them. This helps to reassure children and they develop a sense of belonging. Staff encourage children to take responsibility for tasks, which helps with their independence skills. Older children look after and nurture young children, inviting them to play in their games.

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

- Children are given ample opportunities to develop their physical skills both inside and outside. They are regularly encouraged to play in group games and burn off energy. Children enjoy investigating nature among the trees and running around in the fresh air. Staff discuss healthy lifestyles with the children. They encourage them to eat fruit and vegetables from their snack boxes and to regularly drink water during play.
- Children say that they really look forward to coming to the club. They comment that staff are kind and fun and that they get to do 'cool things' every day. Parents say that the club is of an exceptional quality and that the leader goes to great lengths to provide a safe and stimulating club with a very high level of pastoral care.
- Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) extremely well. They create a bespoke programme which strongly supports the inclusion of every child. Consequently, children with SEND thoroughly enjoy the club and benefit from the activities. However, there are occasions when quieter children do not receive the same level of interactions from staff. Despite this, overall staff offer good levels of engagement through different play experiences.
- Children of different ages benefit from collaborative play and activities together. For instance, they sit and make 'rainbow cards' together at the craft tables. They

chat about school and their families, giggle and share jokes with one another. Children demonstrate a high level of social interaction and are confident around staff, including a visitor to the club.

- The leader is very passionate about the aims for the club. He evaluates the service he provides closely and listens to feedback from parents, children and staff. Staff have an in-depth understanding of children's needs. They strive to make the club a success and to have a positive impact on the children who attend. Staff are well-qualified to use their skills to enhance the high-quality provision.
- Children demonstrate that they feel safe in the staff's warm care. Staff have an excellent understanding of their role in keeping children safe. They are aware of their responsibilities in line with local safeguarding protocol. There is a robust recruitment process in place to ensure that those staff who work with children are suitable. The inside and outside of the premises are checked daily and hazards removed if necessary
- Staff skilfully play alongside children. They encourage children to play together and give them tasks, such as writing shopping lists and using money to 'buy' groceries. This supports children's imaginative play and develop skills that they may use in everyday life. Staff ask children to vote and fairly decide which short movie they would like to watch over lunch. This helps children develop their decision-making skills.

## **Safeguarding**

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	2656097
<b>Local authority</b>	Brighton and Hove
<b>Inspection number</b>	10335045
<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>	42
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Luckhurst, Mark
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	2656096
<b>Telephone number</b>	07889693628
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable

## Information about this early years setting

PLAY at St Bernadette's has been registered since 2021. It offers holiday club provision during all school holidays and operates from St Bernadette's Catholic School in Brighton. The club runs Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 5pm, although children can be collected at an earlier time of 3.15pm. The provider employs seven members of staff, five of whom are qualified teachers.

## Information about this inspection

### Inspector

Tina Lambert

## 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 spoke to the children throughout the inspection as appropriate and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at a selection of relevant documentation including the suitability of staff to work with children.
- Parents gave their views on quality of the the holiday club.
- The club leader and the inspector viewed the premises and discussed their suitability and security.

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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