

Inspection of Pioneer Childcare - Blackthorns

Blackthorns C P Academy, 3 Blackthorns Close, Lindfield, Haywards Heath RH16
2UA

Inspection date: 3 April 2025

**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 to attend this setting and form trusting relationships with staff. They show they feel safe and secure, and confidently chat to their friends and staff about their plans for the school holidays. Staff follow children's interests and engage them in further discussion about their families and home experiences. This supports a strong sense of belonging at the club.

Staff actively seek children's views and ideas. They spend time getting to know them well and offer them a variety of activities they enjoy. Children show positive attitudes and are keen to make independent choices in their play. They delight in constructing models and staff follow their interests and introduce new words, such as propellor. Children have access to the large school playground and enjoy fresh air and exercise each day. Staff encourage children to practise their skills and to join in team games, such as dodgeball and football.

Staff are good role models. They involve children in active discussions about the club rules, and children demonstrate they understand these well. For example, they discuss the consequences that their behaviour could have on themselves and others. Children enjoy spending time with their friends and show kindness to each other. Older children demonstrate this well and show their younger peers how to cut tape with scissors. Staff praise children for being caring towards others, which boosts their confidence and self-esteem.

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

- Staff seek and value the views of children. For instance, they hold weekly meetings with them about what they would like to do or change in the club. They also encourage children to write down their views and post them in the suggestion box. This supports all children in understanding that staff respect and value their opinions.
- Children participate in lots of activities that successfully capture their interests. For instance, they paint and draw, make paper aeroplanes and enjoy flying them with their friends. However, at times, some adult-led activities are not planned precisely enough or fully explained to children. This means some children, particularly the younger children, do not fully understand how to start them and they become a little confused and frustrated.
- Staff promote healthy lifestyles. They offer children a wide range of healthy food options, such as wraps with nutritious fillings and fruit. They remind children about the importance of remaining hydrated and to refill their water bottles. Staff skilfully use routines, such as mealtimes, to support children's developing independence. Children know where to take their plates, and dispose of their

food without prompting.

- Staff offer children positive initiatives, such as reward strategies, to encourage and celebrate good behaviour. Children are keen to be star of the day and strive to achieve this. They are kind, helpful and respectful to their friends and staff. For example, they support each other in team games and praise their friends for their achievements.
- Partnerships with parents and the host school are strong. Staff have daily conversations with parents at collection times, including passing messages on from their child's class teachers. Parents state that communication is good and staff keep them informed about their child's day.
- The management team ensure the inside and outside environments are consistently safe and secure. Staff conduct regular checks before and during the session to ensure children's safety. They discuss risk assessments with children and children demonstrate they understand them. For example, they know they need to ask staff if they would like to access the climbing apparatus. Staff deploy themselves effectively and children thoroughly enjoy their time at the club.
- The management team understand the importance of regular evaluation to help benefit children. They act quickly when they identify areas that need further improvement, and provide staff with the appropriate support and coaching needed. Staff have regular supervision and have access to professional development opportunities. They complete mandatory training, such as safeguarding, health and safety and food hygiene. They show a strong commitment to their roles and say they feel valued and supported well.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

Setting details

Unique reference number	2720459
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10380928
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	40
Number of children on roll	120
Name of registered person	Pioneer Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900510
Telephone number	01444411388
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Pioneer Childcare - Blackthorns registered in 2025. The club operates from Blackthorns C P Academy in Haywards Heath. The club opens Monday to Friday, from 7am to the start of the school day and the end of the school day to 6.30pm. It employs four staff.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jane Franks

Inspection activities

- Leaders showed the inspector around the premises and discussed how they ensure that they are safe and suitable.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Children spoke with the inspector during the inspection.
- Leaders showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector spoke to staff 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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