

Inspection of St Helen's After School and Holiday Club

St. Helens C of E Primary School, Greenhill, Alveston, BRISTOL BS35 2QX

Inspection date:

4 June 2024

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children very much enjoy their time at this well-organised and welcoming club. They receive caring attentive support from staff, who know children's needs and interests very well. Children have good relationships with all the staff at the club. They chat with them about their day as they walk from the main school. Children are relaxed and happy upon their arrival. Some eagerly explore the interesting activities on offer while others confidently select other things they want to play with.

Children develop their sense of responsibility and independence very effectively. They take care of their belongings, making sure they are tidy. They readily put on an apron when painting. Managers, supervisors and staff show genuine interest in children. They value children's views and opinions. Children proudly undertake their playground monitor role, joining the manager on checking the outside areas. They offer their ideas for mealtimes, helping to compile the club's weekly shopping list. This considerate involvement in club life significantly contributes to the very happy, calm atmosphere at the club. Children have a strong sense of belonging. They have great respect for the staff team. They behave extremely well. They are polite and follow the club's rules and routines readily. Older children kindly help the younger ones, offering them tips for their success with craft items, such as 'loom bands'.

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

- The manager and supervisors provide the best experiences they can for children at the club. They work hard to evaluate all aspects, gaining the views of staff, parents and the children. Staff consider children's needs carefully and constantly evaluate what could be done better. For example, they have enhanced the pick up arrangements for the reception children, to provide a calmer transition for them as they move from school to the club.
- Staff deploy themselves thoughtfully and closely supervise the children. They consistently check the numbers of children as they move between environments. Staff use walkie-talkies to keep in contact with each other across the site. They work as an effective team, quickly meeting children's needs, such as when a child has a tumble on the playground. The manager calmly and caringly supports the children, implementing their clear first-aid procedures. Children soon feel better and are happy to go off and play again.
- Staff ensure children's physical and mental well-being remains high while at the club. They organise snack times very thoughtfully, re-setting the table with plenty of additional items for children that arrive later from school clubs. Children very much appreciate this, and happily chat with their friends and staff as they enjoy the healthy items provided. Supervisors ensure they communicate

clearly with the staff team on any dietary requirements for the children, so they can keep children healthy and safe.

- Children are busy, well engaged and enjoy the creative opportunities as the club. Staff link to children's interests and get ideas for new resources, constantly ensuring children have lots to inspire and stimulate them. Children spend considerable time experimenting with different materials and techniques. They paint and draw, and colour pictures. They build structures with construction bricks and create intricate designs with loom bands.
- Outside, children relish the large open spaces. They play imaginatively with their friends and have fun using the equipment. Staff thoughtfully join children in their exploration, offering encouragement and praise as children take on challenges and practise new skills. Children try hard at bat and ball games, they climb and build, and are proud of their achievements.
- The manager promotes close partnership working. There are good links with the host school, to ensure consistency for children as well as safety and best use of the areas available. Staff liaise with parents right from the start, getting lots of information on children's needs. They keep parents well informed about all aspects of club practice. Parents are very positive about the club. They say staff are excellent and do a great job, and that they would be lost without them.
- The owner and manager have undertaken training to help them lead staff recruitment appropriately. They work closely with the club's supervisors to provide staff with a thorough induction, and ongoing supervision and support. They conscientiously review and enhance their procedures and processes and ensure these are robustly followed and implemented. Safeguarding is focused upon closely, and staff undertake annual training to refresh and maintain their knowledge.

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	EY406528
Local authority	South Gloucestershire
Inspection number	10346890
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	35
Number of children on roll	141
Name of registered person	Purchase, Catherine Anne
Registered person unique reference number	RP901334
Telephone number	07935 055351
Date of previous inspection	30 August 2018

Information about this early years setting

St Helen's After School and Holiday Club registered in 2010. It is a privately owned club and one of a number in the same chain. The club operates from 3.30pm until 6pm Monday to Thursday and 3.30pm to 5.45pm on Friday, during school term times. It operates from 8am to 5.30pm each weekday for all holidays, except for the Christmas holiday. The club employs 18 staff, 9 of whom hold appropriate qualifications ranging from level 2 to level 6.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rachel Howell

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection of the setting since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provision.
- The inspector viewed all areas and discussed with the manager and supervisor how these areas are used.
- The inspector observed the children, the manager, supervisors and the staff and spoke with them at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector gained the views of parents by reading their comments in questionnaires given to the manager.
- Relevant documentation was reviewed by the inspector including suitability checks and paediatric first-aid qualifications, and the provider discussed their procedures for safeguarding the children.

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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