

# Inspection of St Mary's Thornbury Out Of School Club

St. Marys Church of England Primary School, Church Road, Thornbury, BRISTOL  
BS35 1HJ

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Inspection date:

30 September 2025

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

**This  
inspection**

**Met**

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Previous  
inspection

Met

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

### This provision meets requirements

Children are very excited as they arrive at this stimulating and nurturing club. Staff greet them with enthusiasm and warmth. Children are keen to chat to staff about their day at school. Staff use their detailed knowledge of children to provide activities that truly reflect children's interests. Children also select resources, which staff put at children's height to allow them to constantly access. They show independence in their choices. Children quickly become engrossed in their play. They show high levels of engagement and enthusiasm.

Staff encourage children to complement their learning from school and go beyond what they already know. For example, children enjoy using their knowledge, or making guesses, during staff's 'true or false' questions about space. Children offer their own questions for other children to complete. Children are motivated and highly proactive in their play.

Children benefit from daily time outdoors in the fresh air. They enjoy building their physical skills and strength while climbing on play equipment and running within the playground. Staff are positive role models for children. Equally, older children learn how to be excellent role models and support younger children. They thrive on the responsibility of having Reception class children to 'buddy'. Older children are keen to teach younger children new skills and offer them praise. Reception class children settle into the club extremely quickly. All children demonstrate exceptionally high levels of confidence.

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

- Staff have robust systems for finding out about children before they start. They work with parents and carers and teachers to build a secure picture of children. Children in the early years have a key person dedicated to their care. Staff meet with the children and their parents in the term before they start at the school. They find out what children like to do and essential information. This means that they can meet their care needs as soon as they start. Staff develop excellent relationships with children and a deep understanding of each child.
- Staff ensure that children understand the rules of the setting. They remind children of their expectations each day. Children learn the routines of the day, such as the expectations when entering the club and where to put their belongings. Staff support transitions through the session well. For instance, they clap their hands and say 'one, two, three' to show that children need to stop what they are doing and listen. Children respectfully follow the rules. They behave very well and play exceptionally harmoniously together.
- Relationships with the school are highly positive. Staff have valued and

professional relationships with the teachers and leaders of the school. They regularly communicate about children and work together to support children and parents when needed. For example, they share updates on children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and follow the strategies in place at the school. Children are settled and thrive at the club.

- Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the staff and care they provide. They feel listened to and involved in their child's care at the club. They describe the staff as 'nurturing and warm' and say that staff know their children 'very well'. Staff update parents about the activities in the club through regular newsletters, discussions and messages. Parents are very happy with the care provided.
- Staff benefit from regular support and supervision meetings that constantly develop their practice. Leaders and staff share an ambition to provide the best possible care for children. Staff complete regular training to build on their practice. They use staff meetings and discussions to share their new knowledge with colleagues to support a consistent approach to care for children. Staff's interactions with children are constantly improving and at a high standard for all staff.
- Children benefit from wide and varied experiences that build their understanding of the wider world around them. They learn about instruments and how to play different sports. Staff promote a love, and understanding, of different cultures, including celebrating the individuals who attend. For instance, children learn about the foods, clothes and events celebrated by the Ukrainian staff and children. Children are very well prepared for life in modern Britain.

## **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>                     | EY423118                                            |
| <b>Local authority</b>                             | South Gloucestershire                               |
| <b>Inspection number</b>                           | 10407952                                            |
| <b>Type of provision</b>                           | Childcare on non-domestic premises                  |
| <b>Registers</b>                                   | Early Years Register, Compulsory 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>                  | 104                                                 |
| <b>Name of registered person</b>                   | Purchase, Catherine Anne                            |
| <b>Registered person unique reference number</b>   | RP901334                                            |
| <b>Telephone number</b>                            | 07935754735                                         |
| <b>Date of previous inspection</b>                 | 22 January 2020                                     |

## Information about this early years setting

St Mary's Thornbury Out Of School Club registered in 2011. It is independently run and operates from St Mary's Primary School in Thornbury, near Bristol. The club operates during term time, from 7.40am to 8.45am and from 3.20pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday. The owner has qualified teacher status. She employs seven members of staff, one of whom holds a qualification at level 6 and three staff hold a relevant qualification at level 3. Of the remaining staff, one member of staff holds an early years certificate at level 2 and two are unqualified.

## Information about this inspection

**Inspector**  
Rebecca Martin

## Inspection activities

- The nominated individual and manager showed the inspector around the premises, and talked about how the club is organised and the activities provided for children.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children.
- The nominated individual and the manager met with the inspector to discuss how they organise the leadership and management of the club.
- The inspector looked at relevant documents provided, including evidence of the suitability checks carried out on staff and first-aid arrangements.
- The inspector and manager evaluated an activity planned for children.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- Parents shared their views on the club through written testimonials and discussions, and the inspector took account of their views.

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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