



Inspection Report

St Marys Out of School Club

**School Lane
Overton-on-dee
Wrexham
LL13 0ES**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

18/06/2021

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About St Marys Out of School Club

Type of care provided	Childrens Day Care Out of School Care
Registered Provider	Overton Playcentre
Registered places	48
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Manual Insert Post Registration Inspection
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service that is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service or demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

<u>Well-being</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Care and Development</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Environment</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	No Rating Required

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

Summary

Children are happy at this after school club. They have opportunities to develop their play, learning and independence and have fun. Care staff know them well and respond to their requests.

Care staff support children well and meet their individual needs effectively. They have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. Nearly all care staff have completed mandatory training in first aid and safeguarding so they know what to do to ensure children's well-being. They also support children well during play and demonstrate a good understanding of child development. People running the club agreed following a review of the setting, to train care staff to further develop outdoor play, in particular the use of 'loose parts' to improve creative and adventurous play.

People running the service work in partnership with St. Mary's School to ensure the environment is safe. They complete risk assessments and external quality assurance schemes, which they review regularly. The environment is well suited to supporting children's independence; it is spacious and familiar to the children.

The setting is well managed and has made progress since registration whilst also adapting to Covid-19 infection control measures and related guidance. Staff are well supported through good communication processes and partnerships with the school, parents and other agencies.

Children are confident and independent and know staff will listen to them. They have opportunities to make suitable choices about where they play, what they do and with whom. Children we spoke to told us they have help when they need it and would normally be able to choose to play indoors or outdoors. However due to the current Covid-19 pandemic and Government guidance, children were being encouraged to play outdoors in their contact groups. Children do have opportunities through 'brainstorming' sessions and by completing questionnaires, to contribute their ideas on play and to provide feedback about the club.

Children are settled and familiar with others attending and those who care for them. They attend before and after school and have adapted well to new routines when returning to club after a long period of closure. Children's needs are met as parent's share individual children's needs with care staff so as the care provided will be appropriate.

Children enjoy their play, interact well with others and respect each other. They share resources such as balls and hoops well, take turns playing with bats and kindly and politely including others in their play when they want to join in. Children generally create their own play using the large field and wooded areas to run around and hide. They would benefit from a more varied range of activities outdoors, and a larger choice of suitable resources.

Children are developing their independence and their skills successfully. They find their way around the school grounds easily due to its familiarity, create their own games, and help by putting resources away before they leave the club.

Care and Development

No Rating Required

People who run the setting and care staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. Nearly all staff have completed paediatric first aid, child protection and safe hygiene training, so they know what to do to ensure children's well-being. They encourage children to maintain safe distances from other contact groups and to wash their hands regularly. They are familiar with plans in place for children's medical needs such as asthma and for those with additional learning needs, for example supporting children with communication or emotional needs. There are suitable policies and procedures in place to safeguard children, all have been reviewed and reflect the changes in practice due to the current pandemic.

Care staff support children's interactions and behaviour well by following the setting's positive behaviour management policy, written in partnership with the school to ensure consistency. Staff interact positively with others and treat children and other staff with kindness and warmth. Care staff tend to monitor children from a distance and intervene when they need to.

Care staff are aware of the children's skills, needs, preferences and child development. For example, children have support when using skipping ropes and bats, to use them correctly and safely. They praise children for their achievements however small and reassure them should they continue until they do things right.

Children take interest in the activities they chose, although resources outdoors are limited. Those running the setting agreed in their annual quality of care report (July 2021) that more activities aimed at encouraging children to be more creative in their play and adventurous, would be beneficial for their well-being. We saw children, physically active, happily playing tag and hide and seek and using the environment well.

Children interact well with others. Many care staff have completed additional training in relation to behaviour management and meeting children's specific needs, which has improved practices. Some are committed to completing 'Play work' qualifications. Any additional training would improve outcomes for children if used in practice to support children.

People running the setting promote the use of Welsh as an additional language and are working in partnership with the school towards providing an 'active offer' of Welsh.

Environment

No Rating Required

People who run the after school club ensure the environment is safe, clean and well maintained. They work closely with the school who manage the premises and complete daily health and safety checklists, and review risk assessments regularly. They also work in partnership with the school cleaning team and receive advice from external agencies. There are effective measures in place to ensure staff are aware and understand the policies and procedures. Care staff use team and individual supervision meetings to reinforce practices. Security is a priority at the school with access to buildings restricted during the pandemic. Outdoor areas have secure fencing and care staff have procedures in place to evacuate children. People who run the setting ensure they complete safety checks regularly, such as safety tests on portable electrical appliances, the boiler and heating system and fire prevention equipment.

The club is spacious, with children able to use the large school hall, toilet facilities and outdoor space. We did not inspect the indoor environment due to the timing of the visit and strict adherence at the time to infection control measures. The children remained outdoors throughout the unannounced inspection visit. Children could sit at picnic benches or on the grass, they played on the school field and wooded areas near boundaries. The environment supports children's independence and provides some stimulating play activities, though improvements could be made. The toilets are accessible but strictly managed to minimise cross infections between contact groups. Children have very few resources available to them outdoors and needed to wait their turn and share what was available. The school has recently granted permission for the club to store equipment in a shed; this will allow storage of more resources so children have a better variety.

Leadership and Management

No Rating Required

St. Mary's After School Club is run effectively by Overton Playcentre, a not for profit organisation operating at the school during term time only. Parents and carers are provided with a clear picture of how the service operates from the statement of purpose and quality of care report and are given the information needed to reassure them that this service will meet their children's needs.

People who run the setting complete an annual review of the setting, which includes feedback from children and parents. They have reflected on the past year, and how the club has continued to operate with so few children attending. An action plan is available to make improvements, which focuses on viability and developing outdoor play activities and resources. Parents commented on the new booking in and billing portal, with a few finding the system less flexible than previous arrangements.

People who run the setting manage care staff well, with good communication processes in place to support staff. Care staff confirmed staff meetings, supervision sessions and annual appraisals contribute to their professional development. There have been no new appointments but there is a robust staff recruitment system in place.

People who run the setting show due regard to maintaining good staff to child ratios. Two care staff were caring for nine children when we arrived at the inspection. The responsible individual and additional care staff who can act as relief staff if needed were available at the adjacent 'Playcentre' also managed by the same organisation. Register sheets are available for reference during operating hours and for emergency purposes, in addition to the use of the online systems currently in use.

Partnerships are effective. The responsible individual and committee members have good relationships with parents and carers, the local school and support agencies within the local authority. They seek relevant information from parents about children's needs to ensure appropriate care provided for each child. A parent portal and various social media applications are used to message, send photos and videos, and to keep in touch with parents. During the pandemic, care staff produced a video of themselves dancing in protective clothing so this could be discussed amongst parents and children to help them adapt to the new situation when children returned to the club. Parents told us they very much appreciated their efforts and knew staff genuinely cared about the children.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 To refer to the Welsh Government's 'More Than Just Words' follow on strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care' to further develop Welsh at the setting.

R2 Provide sufficient and varied resources for outdoor play.

R3 Follow up on identified improvement in the settings quality of care report to introduce 'loose parts' and consider promoting activities which are interesting and creative such as den making alongside the physical activities children currently enjoy. Support organisations such as 'Play Wales' and 'Clybiau Plant Cymru' are available to provide training and general advice.

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved

None	
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Areas where priority action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

None	
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