

Inspection of Little Blue Van SH

Sacred Heart Rc School, Broadmeads, Ware SG12 9HY

Inspection date:

1 November 2022

**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 enjoy their time at the after-school club and demonstrate that they are happy and settled. They are greeted warmly by staff as they arrive. Children are familiar with routines as they put their belongings on allocated coat pegs and wash their hands before sitting down for snack. Children develop good relationships with the staff as they chat to them about their day at school and share the activities they did during the previous evening. They form good attachments with their peers as they eagerly sit together in their friendship groups around the table.

Children enjoy accessing a wide range of activities provided. Children become engrossed as they enjoy creative art activities, such as making rockets and bowls out of air-drying clay. They discuss the colours they are using and to whom they are going to give their finished products. Children proudly show their completed items to staff, who provide praise. Children receive 'star of the day' awards for good behaviour and being kind to their friends. This helps to nurture children's self-esteem.

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

- The after-school club and host school work well together. Teachers communicate closely with staff about children's welfare and their school day. This ensures that staff can effectively meet the needs of the children. Leaders of the club work closely with the school office to ensure that attendance registers are up to date.
- Staff are kind and caring towards the children. They take time to support children with their craft activities. Staff readily provide reassurance and support to help children who struggle to prepare for home time. There is a well-established key person system in place for younger children to ensure that their ongoing development can continue in the after-school club.
- Staff understand the importance of promoting children's physical health. They are mindful that children need space and opportunity to unwind after a day at school. They provide opportunities for them to be physically active in the outdoor play area. Children enjoy playing dodge ball, running and climbing on the equipment. During the summer months, they enjoy sports days on the field and 'scavenger hunts'.
- Children share their ideas and suggestions on activities they would like to do. Staff respond appropriately and provide children with a range of activities that suit their interest. For example, children request for pens and paper to draw pictures. However, a recent change in the organisation of activities sometimes leaves children waiting for resources and activities to be set up. This leads to the children becoming restless. Leaders have highlighted this and are currently re-

evaluating how this could be improved in order to provide children with access to resources and activities consistently throughout the session.

- Parents speak highly of the after-school club. They report their children enjoy accessing the wide range of activities on offer. They receive clear communication about their children at pick-up times. Parents appreciate the adjustments that staff make to suit the needs of their children, in particular children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Staff report feeling valued and well supported by the managers. Leaders monitor the quality of care closely. They use regular supervision sessions and team meetings to give staff helpful feedback on their performance. Staff are offered focused training opportunities to develop their skills, such as training in autism. This helps staff to further support children and meet their needs effectively.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders and managers have clear expectations of staff. They provide regular training for staff to ensure that they are fully aware of how to keep children safe. Managers ensure that clear reporting procedures are in place. These provide detailed information for staff to access if required. Robust recruitment processes are in place to manage safe recruitment. Staff carry out regular risk assessments in the setting to ensure that the environment is kept safe. Managers ensure that staff are appropriately deployed so that children can be supervised at all times.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2598197
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10251485
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 10
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	47
Name of registered person	Little Blue Van (GA) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP901197
Telephone number	07790444704
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Little Blue Van SH registered in 2020. It is an after-school provision based in Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, in Ware, Hertfordshire. It operates during term time only, Monday to Friday, from 3.15pm until 6pm. There are four members of staff, one of whom holds a relevant qualification at level 2.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Emily Woodhead

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received 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 club.
- The inspector undertook a learning walk around the club with the manager. She held regular discussions with the manager and the staff.
- The inspector spoke to children and parents during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation. This included evidence of staff suitability, staff files and registers.

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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