

Inspection of Muskateers After School Club

Bitterne C of E Junior School, Brownlow Avenue, SOUTHAMPTON SO19 7BX

Inspection date:

14 November 2023

**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 arrive at the after-school club happily. Staff greet them warmly. Children have established positive relationships with the friendly staff and each other. Staff encourage children to put their belongings away and to sit on the mat for registration. This helps children become familiar with routines. Staff have high expectations for children's behaviour. They model and remind children of respectful behaviour. Children respond swiftly to instructions and requests. This consistent approach enables children to understand what is expected of them and their behaviour is impeccable.

Children interact confidently with staff and each other. They initiate conversation and listen to ideas. For instance, during group discussions children talk about topics that interest them and previous experiences. Staff ensure that children feel valued. They encourage children to take on responsibilities. As a result, older children offer guidance to younger children. This further supports positive relationships.

Children feel secure at the club, as staff are sensitive to their emotional well-being. For example, staff recognise the importance of introducing visitors to the children. Children are friendly and confidently talk to visitors. They talk about what they enjoy doing at the club. For instance, older children enjoy balls games and craft activities. Younger children enjoy playing with dolls, cars, and dinosaurs.

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

- Leaders plan the environment around children's interests to encourage them to join in with activities. They focus on providing experiences that are fun and exciting. For example, during art and craft activities, children enjoy creating autumn leaf hedgehogs and scarecrows.
- There are good arrangements to ensure that all children are fully included. Staff encourage children to share their ideas for resources and activities. Staff encourage children to think of rules to help keep themselves safe. For example, children have recently developed rules for football. This helps children to feel valued.
- Staff are good role models. They model respectful behaviour. Staff remind children to use good manners, such as sharing and listening when others speak. This contributes to children's excellent behaviour. For example, during 'show and tell' children volunteer to speak by putting their hand up. They then join a line and wait patiently for their turn.
- Leaders have exceptional understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They have high expectations for all staff. The leadership team and staff ensure they keep their professional knowledge and understanding up to date by completing

extensive training courses. This helps to raise standards even further.

- Parent partnerships are strong. Staff ensure that parents are kept up to date with children's progress. Parents highly praise the rich set of experiences provided by staff. They comment that staff go 'above and beyond' in ensuring children are safe and making pick up easier for parents. For example, parents gain access to the school site after hours via a coded padlock on the gate.
- Staff promote children's good health well. Children benefit from plenty of opportunities to access fresh air and exercise. Staff provide a healthy range of foods at snack time. For instance, children choose items such as sweetcorn, cheese, and fruit. Staff frequently remind children to have regular drinks. Staff are consistent in their approach to teaching children good hand hygiene practices.
- Staff have established good partnerships with the host school. Parents consent for staff to share information with the school team. Teachers regularly visit the after-school club. This helps to provide continuity for children.
- Leaders know children well. They gain a good understanding of children's starting points through working in partnership with parents. For instance, when children start, parents meet with leaders and exchange information. The manager explains how this enables them to further meet children's individual needs and requirements.
- Leaders support staff well. Staff explain that they feel comfortable approaching leaders with any aspect that may arise. Staff are encouraged to share their ideas for improvement and to access training to enhance their professional development. Staff work well as a team. This helps to ensure a harmonious working environment.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Safeguarding is a strong focus of the provision. Leaders ensure they have robust policies and procedures in place to keep everyone safe. Staff know the signs and symptoms of abuse and are confident to act immediately if they have any concerns about a child's safety. The manager ensures that she adheres to safe recruitment practices to help ensure that all staff are suitable for their role. Leaders hold regular staff meetings around safeguarding discussions to further enhance staff knowledge and understanding.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY497495
Local authority	Southampton
Inspection number	10301677
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	250
Number of children on roll	80
Name of registered person	Muskateers After School Activity Club Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP903072
Telephone number	07551 684470
Date of previous inspection	26 January 2018

Information about this early years setting

Muskateers After School Club registered in 2016. The provision operates from rooms within Bitterne Church of England Primary School in Southampton. The club opens five days a week during term time from 3pm until 5.45pm. There are five staff working with the children, two of whom hold early years qualifications at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Loretta Murphy

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together. The inspector observed staff practices and considered the impact these have on children's play experiences.
- The inspector held discussions with the management, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector sampled some of the setting's documentation, including staff suitability.

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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