

Inspection of Zebras - Cotham School

Cotham School, Cotham Lawn Road, Bristol BS6 6DT

Inspection date:

15 April 2025

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Not Met (with actions)

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Staff thoughtfully set out the areas available, both in the hall and outside. Children eagerly explore the interesting activities and resources and enjoy their time at the club. They spend considerable periods creating with a wide variety of materials, following their interests and testing out ideas. Staff offer them tips, such as useful techniques with clay. Children create models, exploring making holes in the clay and say 'it's a cave'. They make items linked to the club's Easter theme, such as sock bunnies. Children also collect natural items outside to create with, making wonderful collages.

Children have good relationships with the staff at the club, enjoying their company in activities. Staff are kind and considerate. They thoughtfully notice if a child is playing alone and join them in their play or encourage them to join an activity with the other children. They act promptly when children have had a tumble on the playground and are caring and reassuring, checking them and offering suitable first-aid support. They continue to check on them and make sure children are comfortable and playing happily again. Children appreciate the social opportunities at the club, making friends and enjoying being with the other children. Many children return to the club and enjoy seeing their 'holiday family'.

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

- Children enjoy being physically active on the spacious playground, playing ball games, challenging their skills on scooters or the climbing equipment. They have great fun in the 'Hub' next to the hall, using the bouncy castle and large ball pit. They giggle as they play with the ball pit air jets, balancing balls on these. Staff lead this mid-morning session well, ensuring that numbers of children are suitably limited to aid children's enjoyment and safety.
- Staff ensure that plenty of information is gained from parents when children first start attending, thoughtfully contacting parents to ask about children's interests. Parents are complimentary about the support their children receive. They say that staff are friendly and welcoming, and children very much enjoy the varied activities and resources on offer.
- Children behave well at the club. Staff help children share craft items and utensils and work together at tasks. Children show respect for each other, playing games, cooperating and taking turns well. They show confidence to speak with staff about things they want or need. They respectfully listen to them, adapting their behaviour to ensure their and others' safety as they play.
- At times, staff involve children in club life well. Children help set up some of the activities. They wash their hands ready for mealtimes, find their lunch boxes and put their rubbish in the bin. However, staff do not encourage children to tidy up

after their morning session. Items are a little jumbled and, additionally, when children come back into the hall from lunchtime they do not leave their things tidy. Staff end up tidying some of these areas and do not encourage children's own sense of responsibility fully.

- The club trip each Wednesday is popular. Children have the chance to visit different venues in the surrounding area, city and neighbouring city. They travel by coach to farm parks and larger parks, offering enjoyable days out for the children and a chance to learn about and experience the world around them.
- The provider meets with staff, both as a team and individually, to support and develop the provision. They evaluate and improve practice to ensure the club runs smoothly and effectively. They work to ensure areas are secure and that staff are suitably deployed across the different rooms and outside area, to help keep children safe and support their well-being.

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	EY498946
Local authority	Bristol City of
Inspection number	10350421
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 12
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	150
Name of registered person	Zebras Out Of School Club Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP900210
Telephone number	07759 785014
Date of previous inspection	23 April 2024

Information about this early years setting

Zebras - Cotham School registered in 2016 and is located in Cotham School, Bristol. It operates from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday during the school holidays. There are 13 members of staff, the provider holds qualified teacher status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Rachel Howell

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas and discussed with the provider how these areas are used.
- The inspector observed the children, the provider 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 messages sent to the provider.
- 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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2025