

Inspection of Good Shepherd After School Club

Belswains Primary School, Barnfield, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9QJ

Inspection date: 9 July 2024

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 remain thoroughly engaged throughout their time at this after-school club. Staff ensure children's interests are at the heart of the provider's practice. They cater well to the different ages and interests of all children who attend. For example, children enjoy various craft activities and board games indoors. Those who are feeling more energetic explore the extensive playground and play equipment. Children select resources and enthusiastic staff happily join in and support them in their chosen play.

Children demonstrate that they feel safe and secure in the after-school club. They chat openly about their day at school with the caring staff who listen intently. Staff offer support that promotes children's well-being. They know children well and are attentive to their needs. For example, they are quick to identify when children are playing alone and encourage them to join in with games.

Children are friendly and sociable. Staff create opportunities for children to engage in meaningful conversations throughout their time at the after-school club. Children and staff sit at tables together to enjoy their healthy snacks. They chat enthusiastically about their favourite foods and the many activities they play with their friends at the after-school club.

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

- Children behave well in the after-school club. They are kind to one another, cooperate well during play and demonstrate good manners. Staff support this well by mirroring the school's behaviour management strategies. This provides children with consistent boundaries and expectations.
- The provider supports staff development exceptionally well. Staff have access to a wealth of online training opportunities to enhance their knowledge and support them in providing high-quality care for children. The provider conducts regular appraisals and supervisions with all staff to monitor their practice and well-being.
- Children develop a sense of responsibility by completing age-appropriate tasks in the after-school club. They clear away plates and cups after snacks and understand the need to tidy toys before they go home. Staff acknowledge children's efforts and achievements by offering praise and recognition. For example, children proudly show off the stickers they receive for their kind and helpful behaviour.
- Relationships between parents and staff are strong. The provider establishes robust methods of online communication and staff hold daily discussions with parents when collecting children. The provider reflects well on feedback from both parents and children and makes well-considered changes. For example,

children play an active role in the purchase of new resources to reflect their changing interests.

- The provider and staff have a respectful and professional relationship with the host school. Staff collect children from their classrooms and gather vital information about their day at school from class teachers. This enables staff to offer additional support that promotes children's well-being. The provider and staff attend the school's induction sessions. They gather vital information from parents regarding children's individual needs. This enables them to make appropriate adjustments that support children to settle well and enjoy their time at the after-school club.
- Children form close bonds with one another. They cooperate well during play, offering support to their friends. For example, older children teach their younger friends how to play chess. Relationships with staff are warm and nurturing. Children freely discuss their concerns with staff, who are sensitive and supportive.
- The provider and staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe. They are vigilant and ensure the environment remains safe for all children who attend. Staff all demonstrate a good understanding of the signs and symptoms that could indicate a child is at risk from harm. Staff explain the correct procedures when reporting concerns. Furthermore, they understand the process to follow if they feel their concerns are not being addressed. The provider has robust recruitment and induction processes in place and ensures all staff are suitable to work with children.

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	2683529
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10354909
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	30
Number of children on roll	100
Name of registered person	Good Shepherd After School Club Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP558547
Telephone number	07534896953
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Good Shepherd After School Club at Belswains Primary School registered in 2022. Sessions are from Monday to Friday, from 3.15pm to 6pm during term time only.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Antonia Campbell

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 inspector and provider took a tour of the club. They discussed how the club is organised and the play opportunities provided for children.
- The inspector considered the views of parents by speaking to several during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documents, including evidence of the suitability of all staff.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children during activities.

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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