

Inspection Report

Funstation After School Club

Gwaelod y Garth Primary School Main Road Gwaelod Y Garth Cardiff CF15 9HJ



Date Inspection Completed

12/01/2024



About Funstation After School Club

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care
	Out of School Care
Registered Provider	Committee of Funstation After School Club
Registered places	32
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	16 April 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and demonstrates a
	significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.
	language and callate.

Well-being	Adequate
Care and Development	Adequate
Environment	Poor
Leadership and Management	Poor

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

Children can make some choices at the setting. They are content in the care of the club and enjoy playing with their friends. Children feel safe in the care of staff.

Staff have an appropriate understanding of their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. They are warm, patient and kind. They use positive behaviour management strategies in their interactions with the children.

Through the course of the inspection the environment has changed due to the initial environment's play space being too small to meet the National Minimum Standards (NMS). The current environment is safe, secure, clean and meets the NMS space requirements. However, in this new environment, there is not sufficient storage for children to access enough resources to stimulate their play and learning. We have issued a Priority Action Notice regarding this and expect the provider to take action.

People who run the setting are committed to providing a club where children are happy and enjoy their play. However, they have not been fulfilling all their regulatory requirements. People who run the setting have engaged fully with the inspection process and made some immediate changes, however there are further areas which require improvement in order to comply with regulations.

Well-being Adequate

Children have a voice at the setting. They are confident to talk to staff and express their views. They give their opinions formally through 6 monthly questionnaires, and a suggestions box. Children have some opportunities to make choices at the club. They are involved with choosing what they watch on the television and at snack time, they can choose from a range of options. Children can choose what to play with from the selection of resources made available to them. For example we saw a group of children choose to do craft activities together whilst another group of children chose to play a game of cards with a staff member. However, children's choice of indoor activities is limited. During the Inspection visit, which was in the winter, we did not see children being able to choose to go outside, although leaders, parents and children told us that this is a strong feature of the club in other seasons.

Children are content to be in the care of the club. They greet staff happily and chat to them easily as they arrive in their care. Children are familiar with the routines of the club which gives them a sense of belonging. For example, they sit quietly for the register and go readily to wash their hands before snack. Most children are confident to approach staff to chat or to ask for help if needed.

Children interact positively with their friends and with staff at the setting. They play and cooperate well together to share resources. Older children care for younger children and play kindly with them. Children are confident to approach staff to complain or explain when they are sad or disagree about anything. They listen to staff and respect their directions. For example, when two children disagreed over something they both wanted, they followed staff's directions to take turns for a few minutes each, thus resolving the issue.

Most children are generally engaged in their play and learning at the setting. For example, we saw some children concentrating on making Christmas decorations, some children practising dancing and others quietly watching television. However, sometimes the limited choice of activities led to a few children becoming bored and restless.

Children have some opportunities to develop their independence. They are responsible for their possessions and ensure they hang up their coats and bags. Children have some opportunities to help, for example, serving the food at snack time.

Care and Development

Adequate

Staff have an appropriate understanding of their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe. They have a satisfactory understanding of safeguarding issues, the signs and symptoms of abuse, and their own duty to report any concerns. There is a safeguarding policy in place, however at the time of Inspection this needed some adjustments to ensure it was up to date. People who run the setting took immediate action to remedy this. Staff have up to date online safeguarding and paediatric first aid training. However, they need further training which includes face to face practical elements to ensure they have had opportunities to practise techniques. Staff promote healthy lifestyles. For example, they encourage children to wash their hands, and provide and encourage plenty of healthy fruit at snack time. Staff have increased the frequency of fire drills since the inspection to ensure all children have opportunities to practice what to do in an emergency. They record accidents appropriately, and since the inspection have put a more robust system in place for the recording of incidents and pre-existing injuries. Staff have suitable records and a sound knowledge of children's allergies, dietary requirements, and medical needs. They keep accurate registers of children's attendance.

Staff are consistently warm, patient and kind in their interactions with the children. They use positive behaviour management strategies at the setting, for example, praising children for sharing and using good manners.

Staff know children and their individual needs. They are observant about when children need support with their interactions and intervene appropriately. For example, a staff member noticed when a younger child started to struggle with sharing items and diffused the situation. Staff support children with additional learning needs appropriately and ensure they receive care which meets their needs. They naturally extend the play and learning of children through chatting to them about what they are doing. For example we heard them encourage children to try new fruits, explaining the health benefits of doing so. Due to difficulties establishing the conditions of the room rental, staff carry out cleaning routines during the time children are at the club to ensure they can leave the building as soon as children have been picked up. However these routines impact on the care of the children as staff availability to support and talk to children is reduced during cleaning.

Environment Poor

Since the previous inspection in 2018, the setting had moved locations within the school from the nursery area to a smaller classroom. This room was being used at the time of the first visit of this Inspection. However, it did not meet the minimum play space specified in the National Minimum Standards (NMS) for the numbers of children for which the setting is registered. In addition, the corridor and toilets did not meet the NMS as they were not for the sole use of the setting during the hours of operation. This presented difficulties for staff, making it hard for them to always ensure the safety and security of children. Due to these reasons, during the course of the Inspection, the club moved to use a different building on the school site containing two classrooms and a suitable number of toilets. This is self - contained and for the sole use of the setting during the hours of operation. This ensures the environment is secure and staff can ensure there is only authorised access to the setting. The current premises have been measured and there is a basic risk assessment in place. However, risk assessments for the premises and activities need to be reviewed and updated to ensure they are suitably detailed and robust.

The rooms are furnished with plenty of tables and chairs enabling all children to have somewhere to sit to enjoy snack or for other activities. There are some bean bags which allow children to relax. There are a suitable number of toilets and wash hand basins. We did not see the outdoor play area in use due to the time of year and lack of light.

The setting owns a suitable range of toys, games, and resources for children. These are mainly stored in two outdoor sheds. At the inspection visit to the initial premises, some children left the room and visited the shed with staff to choose resources to play with. However, children were not able to access resources independently. During the inspection visit to the new self-contained premises, children did not have access to sufficient resources to meet their needs for play and learning. There were no storage facilities available in the room for children to access resources independently and staff did not bring any additional resources or toys from the outdoor storage areas. This is having an impact on children's wellbeing, and we have therefore issued a priority action notice. The provider must take immediate action to address this issue.

People who run the setting are committed to providing an after-school club which serves the families who attend the school and where children feel happy and valued. However, they have not been meeting some of their regulatory requirements. They have not kept their statement of purpose up to date or notified CIW of any changes. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. The Responsible Individual has not kept CIW up to date with changes in staffing arrangements. While no immediate action is required, this is also an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

People who run the setting carry out some self-evaluation. For example, they distribute questionnaires to children and parents every six months to seek feedback on the setting and suggestions for improvement. They were able to demonstrate how they have used the information from these to improve outdoor resources for children. However they have not fulfilled their regulatory responsibility to produce an annual Quality of Care Review for several years. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. The Responsible Individual has also failed to complete the Self Assessment of Service (SASS) on the last two occasions it has been requested by Care Inspectorate Wales. While no immediate action is required, this is also an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

People who run the setting undertake relevant checks to ensure staff are suitable to work with children and ensure that staff's Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS) are current. They ensure that staff files are up to date and contain all the necessary information. The Person in Charge and her Deputy have established a system for supervision and appraisals to support staff in their roles. However, there is no system in place to ensure the Person in Charge has adequate opportunities for supervision and support with her role. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

People who run the setting have established positive relationships with parents. Parents we spoke to told us how approachable they find the Person in Charge and how they value her care for their children. They told us that without the setting they would find it extremely difficult to manage their childcare needs and their children's attendance at the school.

Summary of Non-Compliance	
Status	What each means
New	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
Reviewed	Compliance was reviewed at this inspection and was not achieved. The target date for compliance is in the future and will be tested at next inspection.
Not Achieved	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
Achieved	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was achieved.

We respond to non-compliance with regulations where poor outcomes for people, and / or risk to people's well-being are identified by issuing Priority Action Notice (s).

The provider must take immediate steps to address this and make improvements. Where providers fail to take priority action by the target date we may escalate the matter to an Improvement and Enforcement Panel.

Priority Action Notice(s)		
Regulation	Summary	Status
37	The registered person must ensure that the premises are suitably furnished and equipped to allow children to have access to sufficient resources to stimulate their play and learning.	New

Where we find non-compliance with regulations but no immediate or significant risk for people using the service is identified we highlight these as Areas for Improvement.

We expect the provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection. Where the provider has failed to make the necessary improvements we will escalate the matter by issuing a Priority Action Notice.

Area(s) for Improvement

Regulation	Summary	Status
15	The registered person must ensure they regularly review and update their Statement of Purpose and notify Care Inspectorate Wales of any revisions.	New
31	The registered person must ensure CIW are informed of any staff changes.	New
16	The registered person must ensure a Quality of Care Review is produced annually.	New
17	The registered person must ensure they complete and submit the Self Assessment of Service when required by Care Inspectorate Wales.	New
29	The registered person must ensure that the person in charge receives appropriate supervision and appraisal.	New

Where we find the provider is not meeting the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care but there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service, we highlight these as Recommendations to Meet National Minimum Standards.

We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up at the next inspection.

National Minimum Standards	
Standard	Recommendation(s)
Standard 24 - Safety	Review all risk assessments for premises and activities to ensure they are suitably detailed and robust
Standard 20 - Child protection	Ensure the Safeguarding Policy is regularly updated to reflect current procedures.
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Ensure staff receive paediatric first aid training which includes face to face practical elements.
Standard 15 - Staffing ratios	Ensure daily cleaning routines are carried out once children have left the setting so that rations of staff fully available to children are maintained.

Where we think it helpful, we may make best practice recommendations. These are to encourage settings that are doing well to become even better at helping children thrive.

Best Practice

Recommendation(s)

Ensure that both the Responsible Individual and the Person in Charge familiarise themselves with Childcare Regulations and National Minimum Standards so they are fully aware of their responsibilities.

Ratings	What the ratings mean
Excellent	These are services which are committed to ongoing improvement with many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. These services deliver high quality care and support and are able to demonstrate that they make a strong contribution to improving children's well-being.
Good	These are services with strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. They consistently exceed basic requirements, delivering positive outcomes for children and actively promote their well-being.
Adequate	These are services where strengths outweigh areas for improvement. They are safe and meet basic requirements but improvements are required to promote well-being and improve outcomes for children.
Poor	These are services where important areas for improvement outweigh strengths and there are significant examples of non-compliance that impact negatively on children's well-being. Where services are poor we will take enforcement action and issue a non-compliance notice.

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Date Published 18/03/2024