



Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru  
Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales

# Childcare Inspection Report on

**Rainbows After School Club**

**Chapel Lane site of Ysgol y Waun  
Chapel Lane  
Chirk  
Wrexham  
LL14 5NF**



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## **Description of the service**

Rainbows After School Club is registered to care for 48 children. The registered persons are John Roberts, Nicola Morgan and Natalie Edwards. The person in charge is Della Lloyd. Children from three to eleven are able to attend the club. The club is held in a large hall within Ysgol y Waun. Children also have access to Rainbows Nursery room and a secure outdoor play space. There are snack preparation and toilet facilities and suitable storage areas for equipment and the children's belongings. Provision is through the medium of English, with the use of some Welsh vocabulary.

## **Summary of our findings**

### **1. Overall assessment**

Children that attend the club are happy and content and enjoy the time spent there with staff and friends participating in the activities provided. Staff respond to the children's requirements and the relationship between them is a relaxed and happy. The staff are well qualified and very experienced. They know the children well as they are all also employed in the school during school hours. Staff are well motivated and strive to make a difference in children's lives. The care provided is warm and loving which creates a perfect environment in which to relax after a day at school.

### **2. Improvements**

The club has made purchases to further develop the activities for the children such as ICT equipment.

### **3. Requirements and recommendations**

**None**

# **1. Well-being**

## **Summary**

The children are happy, confident and content and enjoy their time in the club. They feel comfortable in their surroundings and this promotes their self-confidence and their social development. They enjoy a happy and caring relationship with the staff and attention is given to individual needs. The children benefit from attending the club and they receive warm and respectful care.

## **Our findings**

### **1.1 To what extent do children have a voice?**

The children receive ample attention and are given many opportunities to express what they would like to do and they are listened to.

The children benefit from a wide variety of activities to choose from and an extensive selection of resources to complete these activities. The children were seen engaging with their self chosen activities as soon as they arrived at the club. We saw children colouring, sketching and playing a variety of board games. There was water play and a range of construction options also available which were suitable for the various age ranges of children present. We saw some children preferring to take a snack first before engaging in an activity. The club is run in a child centred way without a strict structure – this enables the children to choose what they would like to do and their wishes are catered for. Throughout the inspection we saw that children were free to choose any activity and also to change activities when they wished to do so. This included spending an hour outside which was lovely to see given it was winter.

Children benefit from the relaxed atmosphere and the abundant opportunities to express themselves; every child's voice is respected and they are listened to.

### **1.2 To what extent do children feel safe, happy and valued?**

The children are content and happy with the staff and chat freely with them. Many of the children were confident and happy to chat with us.

We saw the lovely relationship that exists between the children and the staff, which enables the children to show respect towards others and their friends. We observed this further when two of the registered persons who are also the head teacher and deputy head came into the room to speak with us. The children were clearly very familiar and comfortable with all those who work in the school, we heard children thanking the staff without any prompts and having interesting conversations with each other which creates a very social atmosphere. We had a conversation with some of the older children who actually told us

they felt appreciated by staff who know them well and are able to talk to them about their families, their home life, their hobbies and achievements and their day in school. This close relationship means that children are comfortable with staff. About things, this further develops the relationship between them. Children with additional needs are well cared for on a one to one basis and are included in activities according to their wishes.

The children feel comfortable and content in the care of the staff and they are treated with respect and decency.

### **1.3 How well do children interact?**

Children interact well and are learning to control their behaviour, co-operate, take turns and help others. They are learning how to build relationships with others.

Children benefit from the consistent and regular encouragement about acceptable behaviour. Children receive positive persuasion, constant praise and the use of gentle voices to encourage them to demonstrate acceptable behaviour in the club. This stimulates the children to behave in a way that is acceptable to others and to gain praise from the staff. The older children were seen conversing with the younger children and encouraged them to join in with their games and to help with keeping play areas tidy.

The children are led by a good example on how to build a happy relationship with others and also to respect them. This is effective motivation in their social development.

### **1.4 To what extent do children enjoy their play and learning?**

The children thoroughly enjoy the opportunities to play and relax, and they were fully engaged with the activities on offer.

We saw that all the children were busy taking part in a wide range of various activities throughout the inspection period. There were a variety of indoor and outdoor toys, games and puzzles and a wide variety of craft activities. Children could move freely from one activity to the other. We saw that some of the children concentrated on one activity for a long period of time before doing something different. Some children played happily on their own and some were in groups and the children enjoyed the opportunities to do activities with the staff. We were able to talk with some of the children and they all praised the variety of activities in the club particular the craft opportunities such as making little gifts for their parents, and they were excited about the plan to make bracelets for Mothers day.

The children have sufficient opportunities to participate in a wide variety of activities, some of which are of a more structured nature. This maintains their interest and adds to their enjoyment when attending the club.

### **1.5 How well do children develop, learn and become independent?**

The children receive frequent and varied opportunities to develop socially and become independent.

The club is based on a strategy of nurturing independence – the children choose what they want to do, when and what they would like to eat and with whom they spent their time. The children are encouraged to prepare their own snacks, which encourages independence. We saw some children pouring their own cereal and making toast under supervision from staff. Also available was yoghurt, fruit and a drink of milk or water. This also gives the children the opportunity to express likes and dislikes. The children were encouraged to clear up after eating. All the children were reminded to wash their hands which they did independently and also used the toilet facility. Resources are easily accessible for the children to choose from.

The children receive effective encouragement to be independent and accessibility to resources contributes to this.

## **2. Care and Development**

### **Summary**

The staff in the club have succeeded in building a warm relationship with the children, they successfully promote positive behaviour and have created a caring environment. The staff are familiar with and show a good understanding of key policies and procedures and they know when and where to seek help.

### **Our findings**

#### **2.1 How well do practitioners keep children safe and healthy?**

A broad range of procedures are in practice to ensure the safety and health of the children.

In conversation we found that all members of staff that were spoken to were fully conversant with the Child Protection Policy and knew which steps to take if a case arose. Staff members have a current Paediatric First Aid training certificate and records showed accidents were recorded and parents signed to acknowledge receipt of the information. Staff also achieved Level 2 in Food Hygiene which ensured that they prepared snacks whilst following hygienic procedures to keep children healthy. We saw that tables were cleaned before snack time was set up. The club provided the children with healthy snacks and there was fruit and water available at all times. Staff are aware of procedures relating to infection control and we saw children were reminded to wash their hands before snacks and after using the toilet. The staff hold regular fire drills with the children and this is recorded appropriately. A daily register is kept and was seen to be complete and current. We also saw a range of current and detailed risk assessments which are updated regularly and any action taken clearly recorded. We saw staff giving children timely reminders about safety for themselves and of others.

This is a well organised club and staff take extensive steps to ensure that they successfully keep children safe and healthy.

#### **2.2 How well do practitioners manage interactions?**

The staff promote positive behaviour at all times. The children are treated with respect and are continuously given a clear example of acceptable behaviour.

The staff have built a warm relationship with the children which creates a friendly environment in the club. Children are free to relax and enjoy themselves after a tiring day at school. We saw staff chatting with the children about their families and their hobbies and taking an interest in what the children had to say. We saw that staff take the time to chat

with every individual in their turn. This leads to children who are confident happy chatting to each other and also the inspector present. The children display positive behaviour at all times because they are kept busy and are fully engaged in a variety of activities which contributes to the happy and content atmosphere. Staff were heard praising the children consistently.

The staff have succeeded in setting behaviour boundaries while allowing the children the freedom to be relaxed and happy and also lead by example.

### **2.3 How well do practitioners promote children's play, learning and development and meet their individual needs?**

The staff have provided an interesting environment where children can relax and be cared for. The staff are aware of individual needs and respond appropriately.

Staff plan a variety of seasonal activities for the children. The club is well equipped with age appropriate resources. Children are encouraged to play with age appropriate toys and also to develop how they play. We saw some children playing outside with hoola hoops, balancing on tyres and running around playing tag. With the encouragement of a member of staff this was soon developed into a game of throwing the hoops over vertical logs, which the children enjoyed immensely. They were are aware of every child's needs and these were catered for. The provision of one to one care for children with additional needs was well organised and competent.

The staff provide a stimulating environment and activities for the children to promote their development and wellbeing and successfully respond to individual needs



### **3. Environment**

#### **Summary**

The club is held in a large hall in the school and is suitable for the purpose of the care provided. There is a useful area for preparing snacks and toilet facilities are convenient for the use of children. The resources are of good quality and are stored appropriately. All equipment is suitable for the age range of the children.

#### **Our findings**

##### **3.1 How well do leaders ensure the safety of the environment?**

Leaders ensure children are cared for in a clean and safe environment.

The premises are secure, access is through the main entrance to the school where a record of visitors is maintained.. Safety procedures are in practice to ensure that the children receive care in an environment that is safe and clean. Leaders ensure that staff are conversant with procedures such as fire drills and a thorough risk assessment is updated regularly.

There is plentiful space for the children to play inside and outside. The spaces used are well organised and consistent tidying up and storage ensures that there is no clutter leading to safety risks.

Leaders have succeeded to create an environment which is safe for the children but does not restrict their adventurous nature.

##### **3.2 How well do leaders ensure the suitability of the environment?**

The club provides a quality environment which is suitable for children to relax. There is sufficient space and wide range of resources to fulfil individual needs.

The club is held in a large hall where the majority of resources are stored in a large cupboard which means they are easily brought out and set up and accessible to the children. There is sufficient space for all the activities that the children were engaged in. The toilet facility is accessible and promotes the children's independence. There are tables set out for children to sit at when they choose to have a snack which gives the feeling of being in a café.

The leaders have successfully provided an extensive range of resources and a suitable environment which encourages the children to relax and have a good time.

### 3.3

#### 3.3 **HH**How well do leaders ensure the quality of resources and equipment?

The leaders make good use of the quality environment and furniture provided by the school. The leaders ensure that suitable resources are provided which is age appropriate.

We saw that the furniture was of good quality and suitable for children. The club provides ample resources for the children. We were told that staff check the equipment and resources regularly and a thorough check of all resources is done on a termly basis. In conversation with some of the children we found that they were very appreciative of all the resources available to them and told us how involved they are with making suggestions for purchasing of new equipment. Children were every excited about the ICT equipment that was soon to be available to the club.

The leaders have provided extensive resources to ensure that children enjoy themselves, and that they are of a quality that ensures the safety of children.

## **4. Leadership and Management**

### **Summary**

Leadership is effective for the daily running of the service and staff are well supported. The registered persons and person in charge are aware of their legal responsibilities and ensure there is a system for regular monitoring. There are strong partnerships, which benefit the children and their families,

### **Our findings**

#### **4.1 How effective is leadership?**

The person in charge has ensured that the Policies and procedures are detailed and kept in order and that they contain the appropriate information.

The person in charge is conversant with Policies and Procedures and these are incorporated in daily practices. The leader has an up to date and comprehensive Statement of Purpose which is given to parents as part of an information pack before their children commence to use the service. The staff attend courses regularly to ensure that they are well informed and up to date with current procedures. The person in charge stated she is well supported as the registered persons are available to discuss any issues that may arise. Staff also confirmed that they are well supported by the person in charge and also are happy in their work.

Leadership is effective.

#### **4.2 How effective is self evaluation and planning for improvement?**

The club leaders practice self-evaluation procedures and are able to plan improvements to the service regularly.

We saw evidence of self-evaluation procedures and a Quality of Care report was available. The report was seen to be comprehensive and gave a clear picture of all that had happened during the past year and also plans for future improvements. We saw that information from parent and children questionnaires, and also staff questionnaires had been fed into the report. We saw a sample of these questionnaires and all of comments were very complimentary and positive. Children have regular meetings to make suggestions about future activities.

The leaders ensure effective self-evaluation and improvement takes place.

#### **4.3 \_How effective is the management of practitioners, staff and other resources?**

Leaders are very experienced and manage staff and resources effectively. Responsibilities are delegated when appropriate. The staff are well supported and co-operate well as a team.

Staff files met requirements and also evidenced that staff had an annual appraisal and 1:1 supervision. We saw staff collaborate well as a team and support each other. We saw staff take over from colleagues when the need arose, for example if a member of staff was required to speak to a parent, another member of staff continued with activities for the children. This is a popular and busy After School club but with effective teamwork the club operates successfully. The staff are well supported and are given opportunities to express opinions in self-evaluation monitoring and questionnaires. This enables leaders to give staff ownership of decisions taken. The staff are given steady and positive leadership which allows shared management of the facilities and equipment.

The staff work effectively and diligently as a team to ensure good quality care for the children. Responsibilities are shared successfully and are positively managed.

#### **4.4 \_How effective are partnerships?**

There is a good relationship between the club and the parents, with regular and open communication pathways for the benefit of children's wellbeing.

We spoke to three parents and two grandparents who came to collect their children, and every one of these parents and grandparents spoke very highly of the service provided by the club. Staff were very highly praised, also the activities, craft making, commitment to meaningful outdoor play and snacks provided for their children. One parent spoke of the child's reluctance to go home after club because they enjoyed themselves so much. Another said that she doesn't work every day but her child insists on coming to the club. They were also very positive regarding information they receive from the club. There are sufficient opportunities for parents to discuss any issues with the staff on a daily basis.

The close relationship with parents enables the staff and leaders to provide the best regarding the care of all the children. Parents are provided with regular updates regarding the children's welfare. We saw staff reporting to parents as they came to pick up the children, especially if a child was a little tired or had fallen over.

## **5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection**

### **5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections**

There were no issues of non-compliance.

### **5.2 Recommendations for improvement**

None

## **6. \_How we undertook this inspection**

This was a full, unannounced inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. One inspector visited the service on 20 February 2018 from 15 .00pm – 17.15pm

We:

- spoke to the children, person in charge , staff, some parents and grandparents;
- observed practices and completed observations using the SOFI 2 tool to capture evidence of children's engagement and the care being provided by staff;
- inspected a sample of documents and policies;
- inspected the areas used and
- reported our findings to two of the registered persons.

Further information about what we do can be found on our website [www.cssiw.org.uk](http://www.cssiw.org.uk)

## About the service

Type of care provided	Childrens Day Care Out of School Care
Registered Person	John Roberts Nicola Morgan Natalie Edwards
Person in charge	Della Lloyd
Registered maximum number of places	48
Age range of children	3 to 12 years
Opening hours	Monday to Friday 3pm to 5.30pm term time only
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous CSSIW inspection	12 February 2015
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	20 February 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Is early years education for three and four year olds provided at the service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No
Additional Information:	

No noncompliance records found in Open status.