

Inspection of Dainty Little Hands At St Marys Catholic Primary School

St. Marys Catholic Primary School, Beaumont Road, Wednesbury, Staffordshire
WS10 9PN

Inspection date: 23 June 2021

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

Children arrive at the club happily, and they quickly settle to their chosen activities. They form close relationships with staff, and they are eager to tell staff what they have been doing during their day at school. Children know the routines of the club and what is expected of them. Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, some routines have been changed. Children have quickly adapted to these changes. They know that they have to wait by the door until it is their turn to hang up their coat and sanitise their hands.

Children concentrate and become totally engrossed in activities. They ask staff to cut out paper dolls for them and spend time carefully colouring the paper dolls in. They talk about the colours they are using and name their favourite colours. Children are proud of their achievements, and they eagerly share them with staff and visitors. They say they have done amazing work and relish the praise that they receive, which helps to build their self-esteem and confidence. Children say that they enjoy the time they spend at the club, and they talk about their favourite activities and their friends. Children chat happily to each other and to staff. Staff are interested in what children have to say, and staff readily engage in conversations with children.

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

- Children take part in a range of activities which is wholly appropriate for this type of provision. Staff plan activities based around themes which reflect children's interests and what they are learning at school. The current topic is about planets. Children eagerly become 'Jupiter journalists', build using the resources available at the 'comet construction table' and create 'messy mars planets'. They make rockets and spaceships using junk as they carefully stick boxes together.
- Children have great fun outdoors. They join in a planet game that staff have prepared. They listen for the planet name and then run around till they find the correct 'planet'. Older children quickly grasp this concept as they are able to read the planets' names. However, staff do not recognise swiftly that younger children may need more support to enable them to be fully involved from the start. That said, younger children quickly learn to follow the older children.
- Staff encourage children to move in different ways. Children pretend to be floating in the galaxy. They hold their arms out to the side and move gently in a swaying motion. Staff extend the activity as they ask children how they would like to move. Children choose to move slowly and to walk backwards and sideways. Staff join in with the activity, and there is lots of fun and laughter as children try to race staff to the 'planet'.

- There are good relationships with the host school. Staff work with staff from the school to share information to compliment children's care and learning. They share children's achievements and any concerns to ensure that all parties are able to offer consistency and support, when needed.
- Staff pass on information to parents at the end of every session, including messages from school. Parents are happy with the service provided. They say that their children enjoy attending the club and that their children take part in a range of activities. Parents say that staff are friendly and are approachable and that they value the weekly newsletter that they receive.
- Children's behaviour is exceptionally good. They are kind and are respectful to their peers and adults. Staff manage behaviour appropriately and adapt methods of behaviour management to each child's individual needs. Children learn about customs and cultures that are different to their own. They take part in activities, such as creating Rangoli patterns and food tasting.
- The staff team work well together. The provider is supportive of the staff and recognises that the current pandemic has been stressful for them. As a result, there is a qualified mental health first aider in the setting to support staff and children's emotional well-being. Staff are well qualified, and they regularly attend training to further their knowledge and skills. They reflect on what they do well and what they could do better, and they make changes to improve the quality of the service they provide.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and of neglect. They attend safeguarding training, including training on wider issues, such as 'Prevent' duty, knife crime and domestic violence. They share any concerns and observations with the safeguarding lead in the school to help build up a bigger picture. All staff are aware of the whistle-blowing procedure and know where to seek advice or report a concern. The premises is safe and is secure, and children's safety is given the utmost priority. Robust recruitment and induction procedures ensure that everyone working with the children is suitable to do so.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY560212
Local authority	Sandwell
Inspection number	10193051
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	30
Name of registered person	Dainty Little Hands Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP560210
Telephone number	01922 219038
Date of previous inspection	7 May 2019

Information about this early years setting

Dainty Little Hands At St Marys Catholic Primary School registered in 2018 and is one of five settings operated by the same provider. The club opens from Monday to Friday, during term time. Sessions are from 3.20pm until 5.30pm. The club employs two members of childcare staff who both hold appropriate qualifications at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rebecca Johnson

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the setting and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector and the provider discussed how the early years provision is organised.
- The inspector held discussions with staff, children and parents at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a sample of the club's documents. This included evidence about staff suitability and training.
- A meeting was held between the inspector, the provider and the club manager.

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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