

# St Cuthbert With St Mathias School Playcentre

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY244460
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Michelle Tuck
<b>Setting Address</b>	St. Cuthbert With St. Mattias School, Warwick Road, London, SW5 9UE
<b>Telephone number</b>	07875 878 708
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Out of School care

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St Cuthbert's and St Mathias is a Local Authority holiday play scheme, and after school club. The group registered in March 2003. It operates from a Local Authority school. Children have access to a class room and the school playground. They can also access other areas of the school as appropriate.

The out of school club is opened Monday to Friday from 15.30 to 18.00 and during holiday periods from 09.00 to 17:00. There are currently 100 children on roll. The group supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

There are currently four members of staff that work with the children, all of which hold a qualification in early years or play.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from regular opportunities to exercise, and practise both large and small movements, with effective use made of both outdoor and indoor space for child-led and team activities. For example, children thoroughly enjoy physical activities in the outside play area, such as 'kick rounder's'. They are able to access the outside space during free-play, where they can use fixed equipment including swings and balancing beams.

Children are beginning to learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through example and discussion. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands before eating, and after using the toilet, helps reduce the risk of cross-contamination.

Staff provide a selection of healthy foods, which appeal to children and meet their dietary needs. Documentary evidence of children's dietary requirements and parental wishes are kept and acted upon. For example, avoiding certain foods because of allergies. Children enjoy a good range of fruit, vegetables and nutritious foods. Drinks of water are always available to them to ensure their fluid levels are maintained.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Staff have an awareness of risks to children's safety and have taken steps to identify and remove hazards in the setting. By minimising these risks staff enable children to move around freely and explore their environment with safety and growing confidence. There are good security procedures in place. The main entrance gate to the playground is kept locked during the session times and entry is gained through an intercom system. This means that children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised. Children are kept safe because records show that risk assessments are completed for usual activities and all areas of the premises checked daily.

Children self select confidently from a broad range of good quality resources. Children use these appropriately and with a purpose. They are clean, well maintained and stored safely. Children know how to keep themselves safe and usually act appropriately. For example children know they must only access the playground when a member of staff is present.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted by maintaining all the required procedures and documents. For example, regular fire drills are held, and details logged. Staff hold current first aid certificates and each has a good knowledge of child protection issues and procedures.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happily engaged. They are confident to make their own suggestions, and ask for activities and resources of their choosing. Consequently, children are settled and remain at activities until they have completed them to their own satisfaction.

Children are confident in their relationships with staff and benefit from good interaction; staff join in and support their play. Children enjoy a range of creative activities. Children have good opportunities to initiate their own ideas. For example, several children work together to play

a game of Jenga. All children spend their time purposefully, and have opportunities to be active and quiet. Staff welcome the children as they arrive at the club, they talk to them about holidays or recent activities they have taken part in. Children say they have fun when they come to club, they like to meet their friends and play outside.

Children's ideas are valued by the staff and each other. Children have the opportunity to contribute their suggestions for activities and topics through the members committee. The person in charge meets with the committee to gather their ideas prior to planning the next programme, and responds to any suggestions the children have posted in the suggestions box. This results in the children having a sense of ownership to the club.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children behave exceptionally well, as they respond to the positive approach of staff to the management of their behaviour. They understand the rules of their group and enjoy plenty of praise from staff when they behave well. They co-operate with each other and are aware of each other's needs. Children have a strong sense of belonging to the group as they are involved in all aspects. For example, children help to make the rules, decide which activities they want on the programme and have the opportunities to put forward ideas and suggestions.

Children with learning disabilities or difficulties are included and well supported. Staff have a good understanding of children's needs and ensure that their care is consistent with school and home. Children's individual interests and needs are reflected in the planning of activities. All parts of the provision aim to meet the needs of local families, and systems for communicating with parents are well developed. Parents receive comprehensive information about the play centre and are kept up to date through good communication about relevant issues. Children benefit from the strong partnerships formed between the parents and the staff.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The good induction processes followed by the setting, along with the strong commitment from staff, make sure that all adults work well together to promote children's health, safety, and enjoyment. This good teamwork enhances children's care and well being.

The setting is very well organised with both outdoor and indoor space used to maximise play opportunities for children. All legally required documentation, which contributes to children's health, safety and wellbeing, is in place, stored securely, and regularly reviewed. However, although visitors to the setting are recorded, this is not completed consistently.

The staff, who are highly motivated and committed, contribute to the day-to-day running of the after school play centre and holiday club and its continued improvement and development. They regularly reflect, monitor and improve the service they provide as part of their day-to-day work. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

This is the first time the out of school club has been inspected, however the holiday play scheme was inspected in 2003. The group agreed to review the special needs policy and statement. This has been completed and the current policy reflects current practice. They also agreed to

continue to develop links with parents and other agencies, to enable the centre to provide appropriately for children with learning difficulties. The group have good links with parents and other agencies, which help them to provide care to children with learning disabilities and difficulties.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

### **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### **WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?**

#### **The quality and standards of the care**

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- maintain a record of visitors to the group

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)