St. Ninians Out of School Care
Day Care of Children

St. Ninians Primary School
Torbrex Road
Stirling
FK7 9HN

Telephone: 07913 219 039

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
13 June 2023

Service provided by:
St. Ninians Out of School Care, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Service provider number:
SP2017012897

Service no:
CS2016350114

About the service

St. Ninians Out of School Care is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children at any one time.

The service is based in St. Ninians Primary School. The service was delivered from the gym hall with access to the outdoor area. There were toilets just off the gym hall and a kitchen area that was used to prepare snack.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Tuesday 13 June 2023 between 14:30 and 18:30. We provided feedback at the end of the inspection visit. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, information submitted by the service, and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with several children using the service and two families
- spoke with staff
- observed practice and daily life including staff interactions with children
- reviewed documents
- gathered the views of families and staff using a Microsoft Forms survey.

Key messages

- Staff had developed strong nurturing relationships with children.
- Children were learning about safety, had developed skills, and were building confidence through being challenged in their play and taking part in risky play experiences.
- Quality assurance helped identify what the service did well and areas for improvement.
- The management team supported staff well through changes.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning? 5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children felt valued because staff listened to them and treated them with kindness and respect. Children asked staff for support when they needed it. We heard the use of effective questioning that supported children to work things out for themselves. This meant they were developing problem solving skills. Children told us they liked coming to their club spending time with their friends. They said that they enjoyed chatting with staff and that they listened to them.

Children's overall wellbeing was supported through the development and review of personal plans. Staff knew children well and worked together to ensure their approach was consistent when responding to children's individual care and support needs. Reviewing the personal plans regularly meant that children's current needs were taken into account. Most families told us they were involved in their child's care including developing and reviewing their child's personal plan. The service had been working to develop the recording formats to include the voice of children and families to ensure their views were represented. This ensured that they felt valued and respected.

Snack time was an enjoyable, unhurried experience. Children were able to choose from a variety of nutritious snacks including vegetables and a humous dip, or some breakfast cereal. Children enjoyed chatting with their friends and with staff. They had some opportunities to develop skills and independence when preparing food. When asked about helping with the preparation and serving snack, a child told us they were hungry after school and that staff prepared the snack quickly. Encouraging children to help prepare food and serve the snack will promote their confidence and self-esteem.

Staff were clear about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding children. They had an awareness of the process they would follow if they had concerns. Annual child protection training and discussion about child protection at team meetings meant staff could refresh and update their knowledge and understanding. Children were safe and protected as a result.

The service aimed to increase the opportunities for families to engage with the service. Families were welcomed into the service when collecting children. They chatted with staff about their child's day and shared information from home. Children were benefiting from having their family included in their out of school care experience. A parent said, "Plenty staff I can talk to if needed. Always say hello to me."

1.3 Play and learning

Staff valued a child's right to play. The play work principles supported them to provide children with opportunities to develop life skills and learning through their play experiences. Staff evaluated the spaces, experiences and interactions that resulted in rich child led play and learning. They understood their critical role in supporting children's interests and curiosities. This meant children were empowered to be fully involved in making choices about their play and learning.

Children's health and wellbeing was supported through spending time outdoors. Children enjoyed risky play experiences. Children were tree climbing and made a tyre swing that hung from a tree branch. Staff were close by to ensure children were safe providing support and reassurance enabling them to problem solve.

Three children worked closely to determine how they would get the rope into the correct position on the tree branch. One child told us they could make knots that would ensure the swing was safe to use. Children were challenged in their play and were working cooperatively as they confidently made the tyre swing. A parent said, "I like the different play areas, the outdoor play area especially. Also, my child loves all the craft activities."

How good is our setting? 5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

Children were made to feel welcome because staff had created a warm, welcoming and calm environment. Children were able to choose the resources they wanted to play with. Their achievements were celebrated and shared with families. Children and families were included and valued in the service.

The layout of the open planned space enabled children to relax and enjoy their play experiences. Staff had reflected on how the space would support children's needs. A calm tent was available for children needing a quiet space to be alone or in a small group. Cosy spaces with soft furnishings enabled groups of children to rest and relax after a busy day. A mix of areas with a variety of resources including loose parts and authentic and natural resources supported children's curiosity and imagination. Children enjoyed a calm play session that supported their individual choices.

Children's health and wellbeing was supported through effective infection prevention and control routines. The environment was clean, tidy and well ventilated. Hand washing was embedded in practice and regular cleaning took place.

General risk assessment was in place and reviewed regularly. The service had developed in-depth risk assessment giving consideration to specific situations or the needs of individual people. The SIMOA campaign had supported reflection and discussion across the staff team to ensure that children's safety was paramount across the service.

How good is our leadership? 5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The service vision, values, aims and objectives, and the fun and welcoming ethos were promoted by the staff team. This was evident in the kind interactions and positive relationships we witnessed throughout the inspection.

Children and families felt valued and listened to because staff had developed positive relationships with them. Information was shared regularly using an online platform, newsletters and daily chats. Children and families felt included in a service that understood the importance of good communication to support positive outcomes for children.

The service improvement plan identified focus areas for improvement across the service. They included improving engagement with families, improving the impact of play work and developing art and creative experiences. Staff, children and families were encouraged to contribute their views to the improvement plan. Continuous development and improvement of the service, supported children to achieve their potential.

How good is our staff team? 5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

4.3 Staff deployment

Children felt safe and secure in the service because staff had formed trusting and positive relationships with them. Management and staff understood the importance of providing continuity of care and developing positive attachments with children. Families commented positively about the staff team and were confident that children were safe, happy and having fun.

The management team recognised and valued the importance of ensuring the service was always appropriately staffed. Children were warmly greeted by staff as they arrived. This meant they felt respected and welcome in the service. Staff supported one another through effective communication so that the needs of children and families were met. They were flexible and worked together to ensure they were deployed effectively to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children.

Staff worked well together to ensure children were safe, having fun, and engaged. They had developed their skills and knowledge through training and the use of guidance. Staff felt supported by the management team as they had opportunities to reflect on their work and identify areas for their professional development. Recognition of their strengths meant staff were empowered to take a lead role in various aspects of the service. Staff were gaining confidence in their role and the support they received motivated them to provide quality experiences for children.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good

How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good

How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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