The Saturday Cafe Clubs
Day Care of Children

Cathcart Old Parish Church
Community Halls
119 Carmunnock Road
Glasgow
G44 5UW

Telephone: 07817 627 595

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
25 October 2025

Service provided by:
The Saturday Cafe Clubs a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Service provider number:
SP2017013038

Service no:
CS2017362953

About the service

The Saturday Cafe Clubs is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of 30 children aged five to 18 years. The service is mainly provided from halls within Old Cathcart Parish Church as well as other venues within the south side of Glasgow. A secure outdoor play area was available within the church grounds. The service is close to primary schools, local parks and main roads.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 25 October 2025 between 13:00 and 16:15. This 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, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with children attending the service
- received electronic feedback from 20 families whose children attended the service
- received electronic feedback from seven staff who worked in the service
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

As part of our inspections, we assess core assurances. Core assurances are checks we make to ensure children are safe, the physical environment is well maintained and that a service is operating legally. At the time of this inspection, no improvements were identified relating to core assurances.

Key messages

• Children experienced warm and supportive caregiving and engaged in fun play experiences that were responsive to their changeable interests and demands.

•The leadership approach was founded on principles of high-quality care and learning and active engagement with children and their families.

• Staff worked effectively with parents to ensure personal plans included the key information needed to provide appropriate care, meet any medical needs and take forward children's play interests.

• We found that staff promoted a culture within the service that focussed on promoting the children's rights to play.

• Staff took time to understand children's verbal and non verbal communication which helps them to judge when to interact and when to wait and observe.

• The management and staff had a clear understanding of how they wanted to take forward quality improvements within the service.

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

Leadership	5 - Very Good
Children play and learn	5 - Very Good
Children are supported to achieve	5 - Very Good

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

Leadership 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the setting's work and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Quality indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

The leadership approach we observed in place was clearly founded on principles of high-quality care and learning and active engagement with children and their families. The manager was committed to providing the highest standards for children, and families. The manager and staff were committed to including all stakeholders in the design and review of their vision, values and aims. We discussed how these might be regularly reviewed and adapted to highlight key aspirations of the children and families who currently use the service.

The manager had gathered feedback from parents and children to help change and inform ongoing improvements to the service. Effective communication between the manager and the staff team ensured an understanding of the service's improvement goals. The manager had created conditions where all staff feel increasingly confident to initiate well-informed change and share responsibility for the process. Staff told us how they engaged meaningfully with self evaluation and used team meetings to discuss and reflect on their practice. We discussed with the manager how this shared reflection could be enhanced by utilising challenge questions linked to school age childcare quality indicators drawn from national quality frameworks. We highlighted practical consultation strategies for widening family engagement in the improvement planning process. The staff agreed these would enhance communication with parents and help strengthen the capacity of service to deliver care and support tailored towards children's and families' particular needs and choices.

The importance of recruiting and retaining a stable and skilled team was recognised by the manager as essential to the wellbeing of children and staff. The manager prioritised values-based recruitment by clearly communicating the values that matter most to children and families using the service and assessing whether each candidates' values aligned. We found that existing staff had been recruited in a way that was informed by national safer recruitment guidance. We highlighted the value of adapting current induction procedures to reflect best practice approaches outlined in the Scottish Government's national induction resource. This can help to enhance the systems in place for ensuring newly recruited staff have the knowledge and skills necessary for providing high-quality care for children and that they fully understand their responsibilities within the team.

Children play and learn 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the setting's work and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Quality indicator: Playing, learning and developing

We found that staff promoted a culture within the service that focussed on promoting children's right to play through a wide range of creative and physical play experiences. Staff took time to understand children's verbal and non verbal communication which helps them to judge when to interact and when to wait and observe.

We found that children had lots of freedom to pursue their own play ideas during the observed session. This promoted children's choice and independence in their play. We looked at examples of play experiences that had been captured in displays and personal plans. These provided evidence that children were happy and confident in their play and this was consistent with our observations on the day of the inspection.

Staff encouraged children's interactions with each other, and recognised the important role other children have in enriching play. Staff used a variety of approaches to respond to children's cues to support development of self-regulation, empathy, confidence, creativity and curiosity. Staff understood that interacting and exploring with children was a valuable way to foster understanding, and a sense of wonder and excitement about the world. This enabled children to make the most of their interactions and experiences. We found children had opportunities to participate in a variety of creative and active play experiences including: karaoke, dance, movement, drama, action songs, a sensory room, large lego construction, soft play, musical percussion, computer games, a projected floor movement mat, jigsaws, storybooks, sand play and a train set. During term time holidays the children also had opportunities to visit a variety of local places of interests including Soccer World, Kings Park, a gaming studio. Throughout the year there were occasional opportunities for children to attend national and premier league football matches. These experiences helped children build confidence, develop social and emotional skills, and foster an enthusiasm for active and creative play.

All of the qualified staff we spoke to during our visit had a good understanding of the playwork principles and used this to support children's play experiences. We highlighted to staff the value of ensuring that outdoor play space and sensory room were available to children at all times throughout each scheduled session. Staff agreed that this had the potential to help manage intrusive noise levels that could develop at times within the main playrooms. We highlighted the value of ensuring that the staff development programme had a clearer play focus going forward. This can help the service to increase the capacity of newly recruited staff to take forward challenging and varied play initiatives with children. Implementing these improvements will enable the service to provide consistently high-quality, inclusive play opportunities that support children's wellbeing and development.

Children are supported to achieve — 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the setting's work and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support

Children were cared for in a friendly and welcoming environment where children and families felt valued and supported. All of the parents that completed our survey strongly agreed or agreed that they were happy with the care and support their child received in the service. Staff told us how they worked with children to created spaces and experiences which were culturally sensitive, accessible and inclusive for all. Staff knew the children and families very well and this helped them respond sensitively responding to individual needs and circumstances. Families had opportunities to discuss their child's care and development, both informally and formally. We found these actions supported an overall approach where children's sense of security and confidence was being actively fostered. One parent told us: "This is a lifeline for so many families with children with complex and additional needs. It is an essential service and they go above and beyond for not just the children and young people but also for us all as a family unit."

Throughout the play sessions we observed it was clear that children experienced warm and supportive caregiving. We observed staff adapting daily planned activities and being responsive to children's changeable interests and demands. Children were spoken and listened to in ways that promoted self esteem, encouraged them to feel valued as well as responsible for their play choices. One parent told us: "I have complete trust in the staff and see first hand how much they care about the children. They get to know each child and their specific needs, which is critical. I would be lost without them." Another parent commented: "Nothing is too much trouble for the staff. They take the time to really get to know your child and understand their triggers and little quirks. They have a fantastic relationship with children and parents alike."

We looked at how the service's planning approaches for children's care, play and development ensured they experienced positive outcomes. The manager told us how they worked with parents to ensure personal plans included the key information needed to provide appropriate care, meet any medical needs and take forward children's play interests. One parent commented: "The charity provide a clear and comprehensive plan for us to fill in to ensure that our children's needs are met. They are also aware of what makes them happy and signs that they are distressed." We discussed with staff how personal plans had potential to include a forward-looking element that highlighted the children's own play goals. We highlighted how wider use of play based observation approaches by staff had the potential to support children's ownership of developmentally challenging play opportunities.

Staff demonstrated a good understanding of safeguarding procedures and recognised the importance of recording significant events related to any child protection and well-being concerns. We highlighted to the manager how chronology records could be further enhanced in line with current Care Inspectorate national guidance. The manager agreed to implement these changes during the course of our inspection. This will strengthen the record keeping systems already in place that monitor children's experiences over time and help staff respond promptly to emerging concerns.

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

Leadership	5 - Very Good
Leadership and management of staff and resources	5 - Very Good

Children play and learn	5 - Very Good
Playing, learning and developing	5 - Very Good

Children are supported to achieve	5 - Very Good
Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good

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