Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Gwynedd C.P. Out of School Club

Gwynedd C.P. School, Prince of Wales Avenue, Flint, CH6 5DL

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www.ysgolgwynedd.co.uk

The inspection visits for this service took place between 21/07/2026 and 27/07/2026

Service Information:

Operated by:	Dewi Hughes, Nicola Thomas
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	40
Main language(s):	English
Flying Start service:	No
Receive funding to provide early years part time education:	No
Promotion of Welsh language and culture:	The provider is not promoting the Welsh language and culture needs of people, and this requires improvement.

Ratings:

Well-being	Good
Care & Development	Adequate
Environment	Adequate
Leadership & Management	Poor

Summary:

Children are happy, settled and enjoy attending the club. They feel safe and valued as they make positive relationships with each other and staff. Children benefit from free play. They confidently choose what they want to do from a varied range of activities both indoors and outdoors which give them consistent opportunities to develop independence, skills and knowledge.

Staff have a suitable understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. However, leaders have not always provided them with adequate training or systems to fully meet these responsibilities. Staff are caring and responsive to children and their needs. They know the children well and use positive strategies to manage and encourage good behaviour. Staff act as good role models.

Leaders ensure the areas of the school used by the club are safe, secure and suitably clean. At the time of this inspection, they were not using their usual part of the building due to maintenance work

being carried out and therefore the club was not fully set up. However, leaders had ensured children could access adequate furniture, resources and equipment for their play in the holiday club. Children still benefitted from use of the extensive outdoor areas of the school.

Leaders are enthusiastic and strive to deliver good quality out of school provision. However, some members of the leadership team are new to their current posts, and we found several areas where they fail to meet the requirements of the regulations, which has the potential to impact on the well-being and safety of children. Leaders have taken prompt action to begin addressing these and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) will need to see these embedded into practice at the next inspection.

Findings:

Well-being — Good

Children have a strong voice. They are confident communicators as they know their wishes and views will be listened to. As a result, they make purposeful choices and decisions about things that affect them, such as what and who they play with or what they would like to eat at snack time. Children have opportunities to decide if they want to play inside or outside for large parts of their time at the club. Their play choices are only constrained when safety issues are a consideration.

Children are happy, relaxed and settle quickly to play when they arrive at the club. Those who are new receive attentive support from staff and are soon playing confidently either on their own, with other children or with staff. Children chat readily with staff showing they feel safe and valued. They know the routines well and most listen to and follow instructions well.

Children behave well in line with their ages and stages of development. They play together or cooperatively alongside each other making friendships, sharing and taking turns. They build positive, friendly relationships with staff and readily approach them for support if they need it or to join their chosen play, for example, when wanting to complete a large floor puzzle. Children benefit from staff who patiently and calmly support them to resolve differences and help them to learn to regulate their own behaviour.

Children enjoy a wide range of play and learning opportunities. They are active learners and initiate their own play from the activities provided both inside and outside. For example, during holiday club a group worked together to build dens, others played together at the mud kitchen, some enjoyed using the interactive whiteboard and many chose to join in with a planned adult led activity to make pizzas which they took home for tea. Children had opportunities to spend lots of time outside including in areas with large physical play equipment. On occasions, they enjoy visits to local areas of interest such as the castle.

Children have good opportunities to be independent within the club. They manage their own personal care, using the bathroom independently and managing their own belongings such as lunch boxes. Children serve themselves with food at snack time and decide what they want to eat from the selection available. Leaders told us that in after school club when operating from the hall children help to prepare snack and can choose when they eat during a specific window of time. Doing things for themselves successfully promotes children's confidence and self-esteem.

Care & Development — Adequate

Overall, staff have an appropriate understanding of their responsibilities and how to keep children safe and healthy on a day-to-day basis. They understand their role in safeguarding children and know who to report any concerns they may have to. However, leaders have not ensured all staff have appropriate training relevant to their role. Staff use the systems in place for managing and recording accidents, injuries, incidents and medication administered which are shared with parents via an electronic app. However, at the time of inspection there was no means via this app of knowing if parents had seen the notifications and therefore leaders could not be sure parents were aware of matters affecting their child's welfare. There were also occasions when staff did not record regular medication given. Staff keep attendance records that detail the times children attend the setting. However, leaders do not ensure registers are always updated as soon as children arrive or leave and there is not a reliable system for knowing how many children are present at any given time. Training, records and suitable systems are addressed further within the Leadership and Management theme.

Staff follow good hygiene procedures such as ensuring children wash their hands before eating and sanitising tables. They use suitable personal protective equipment such as aprons and gloves when preparing food and changing nappies, although neither they nor children wore aprons when taking part in a cooking activity. Staff provide healthy snacks for children. There is a system to manage allergies and health needs which includes detailed care plans for children with significant needs. Leaders told us they are currently reviewing this to make it clearer for staff which children are present each day. Staff further promote a healthy lifestyle through plenty of outdoor and physical play.

Staff manage interactions and behaviour consistently well and are good role models for children. They are kind, caring and patient. Staff develop close, friendly relationships with children and use techniques such as praise, explanation and distraction to encourage positive behaviour.

Staff promote children's play and learning successfully through their interactions and the experiences they provide. Nearly all staff work in the school and clearly know the children well. Some children attend the holiday club who do not attend the school or after school club and staff get to know them quickly. They plan and provide a varied range of resources and play opportunities and children choose for themselves which they engage with. Staff respond well to children when they invite them into their activities. For example, they help children with den building, to complete a puzzle or show an interest in the drawings they produce. However, they understand that at times children need to enjoy play without unnecessary adult interference and they enable children to do this safely. We did not hear any Welsh spoken although we saw some displays and signs using Welsh in the hall where the club usually operates from. Staff meet the needs of children with emerging, additional and complex needs extremely well.

Environment — Adequate

Leaders ensure the areas of the school used by them are safe, secure and suitably clean. They ask all visitors to sign in and out of the building. Leaders have suitable risk assessments in place for all areas of their operation. They carry out daily safety checks which include recording fridge temperatures. Building maintenance is organised by school leaders but the club leaders ensure they have records of safety checks such as gas and electrical servicing. Leaders have put in place good evacuation procedures, which they practice and record every month.

The club usually runs out of the very large school hall. However, we did not see this in operation as the hall was undergoing refurbishment. Therefore, at the time of this inspection, the holiday club was operating from the nursery classrooms which they occasionally use for after school club. These rooms are spacious and provide ample space for children to move around freely and play. Suitable toilet facilities are available within this area which means children can access them independently. There is an additional area where staff can store and prepare food and children can eat. Leaders had ensured the areas were adequately set up and resourced for their temporary use. The club also has use of the school Cwtch room and changing facilities. Children can access a variety of outdoor areas. There are several around the site and staff make good use of them to ensure children have a variety of play experiences. For example, there is a forest school area and a playground with large play equipment as well as areas which can be accessed directly from playrooms to give children free flow between indoors and outdoors for large parts of the day. Leaders told us they organise occasional off-site outings to further extend the experiences they offer children.

Leaders provide a varied range of resources, toys and equipment both inside and outside which are suitable for the children using them. They ensure they are stored or presented in a way which means children can access them independently. Leaders have recently introduced ‘loose parts’ boxes which contain resources children can use flexibly and stimulate imagination. They are introducing these gradually. Leaders provide some resources to raise awareness of diversity and cultural inclusivity such as books in a variety of languages, activities to celebrate festivals, dolls and disability figures.

Leadership & Management — Poor

Leaders are enthusiastic and strive to deliver good quality out of school provision. However, some members of the leadership team are new to their current posts and considerable attention is needed from them to ensure the setting fully meets the requirements of the Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010 and National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare. Leaders have a good statement of purpose in place with useful information for parents about their setting which they updated during the inspection to ensure it is an accurate reflection of their service. They have a good range of detailed policies and procedures to support the running of the club.

Leaders do not always notify CIW of relevant changes within the club, for example, a change in where they operate from for a significant amount of time and changes to people in charge. This is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. Leaders have submitted relevant retrospective notifications since the inspection. Leaders have not provided staff with sufficient oversight or systems to ensure they can always care safely for children attending the club. They did not provide a system where parents are able to acknowledge receipt of important information such as accident, incident, injury or medication administration forms. This can impact on children's health and safety and place them at risk. We have therefore issued a priority action notice. The provider must take immediate action to address this. Leaders have confirmed they have instigated a system to address this. However, CIW will need to see this embedded into practice at the next inspection. Leaders do not ensure staff update registers in a timely manner or have a system to see quickly how many children are in attendance. This is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

Leaders have suitable systems for reviewing the quality of care they provide which meets regulations. Their annual report includes some evaluation of provision against outcomes for children and identifies appropriate areas for development such as improving, celebrating and raising awareness of diversity and cultural inclusivity. Leaders told us how they are beginning to work on these areas.

Leaders do not fully implement safe recruitment procedures. All staff have appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. However, staff files we sampled did not contain all the required information. Additionally, a new member of staff did not have a suitable file in place and some suitability checks such as references had not been carried out prior to them starting work at the club. This is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. Leaders and most staff in the afterschool club have relevant qualifications and mandatory training such as paediatric first aid and safeguarding. However, leaders have failed to ensure there are enough staff in the holiday club with full or emergency paediatric first aid training or safeguarding training relevant to their role. Leaders had booked staff on to relevant training, but these courses were some time in the future. Since the inspection visit, leaders have confirmed they have booked earlier relevant training for all staff. Additionally, leaders have carried out annual staff appraisals but have not

implemented regular one to one supervision meetings where staff can further reflect on their practice. These failings in training and supervision are a further area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. Leaders have confirmed they are putting in place systems to address these failings.

Leaders and staff develop good relationships with parents. They gather necessary information so they can provide for children's individual needs and keep parents informed about what they do daily through verbal feedback and an electronic app. Children we spoke to said they like attending the club and can do things they enjoy. Leaders work cooperatively with Care Inspectorate Wales and have acted quickly to begin addressing the non-compliance issues and recommendations identified during the inspection.

Areas identified for improvement

Where we identify **Areas for Improvement** but we have not found outcomes for people to be at immediate or significant risk, we discuss these with the provider. We expect the provider to take action and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

Where we find outcomes for people **require significant improvement** and/or there is risk to people's well-being we identify areas for **Priority Action**. In these circumstances we issue a Priority Action Notice(s) to the Provider, and they must take immediate steps to make improvements. We will inspect again within six months to check improvements have been made and outcomes for people have improved.

The table(s) below show the area(s) for priority action and/or those for improvement we have identified.

Summary of Areas for Improvement	Date identified
Children may be at risk because the provider does not ensure accurate records of children's times of attendance are completed in a timely manner, which can impact on a range of safeguarding procedures.	21/07/26
Children may be at risk because the provider does not notify Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) of all significant events, which limits effective accountability and regulatory oversight.	21/07/26
Children may be at risk because the provider has not ensured they have fully implemented safe recruitment procedures and does not hold all relevant information about staff.	21/07/26
Children may be at risk because the provider does not ensure enough staff have relevant training in paediatric first aid and safeguarding or receive appropriate regular supervision, which limits opportunities to reflect on practice and improve the quality of care.	21/07/26

Summary of areas for Priority Action	Date identified
Children are at risk of harm because staff cannot be assured parents are aware of accidents, incidents or treatment that affect the health and well-being of their child.	21/07/26

National Minimum Standards

Where we find the provider is not meeting the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care but there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service, we highlight these as Recommendations to Meet National Minimum Standards.

We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up at the next inspection.

Standard	Recommendation(s)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

Best Practice

Where we think it helpful, we may make best practice recommendations. These are to encourage settings that are doing well to become even better at helping children thrive.

Recommendation(s)
Develop the use of the Welsh language.
Consider the use of aprons by staff and children when taking part in cooking activities.

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