Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Shirenewton After School Club

Shirenewton Primary School
Mynyddbach
Shirenewton
Chepstow
NP16 6RN



Date Inspection Completed

27/03/2025

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About Shirenewton After School Club

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Out of School Care
Registered Person	Rebecca James Melinda Phillips
Registered places	56
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	26 June 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is not making a significant effort to promote the use of Welsh language and culture.

Well-being	**Excellent**
Care and Development	**Good**
Environment	**Good**
Leadership and Management	**Good**

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

Summary

Children are very happy at the setting. They feel extremely safe and speak with confidence as they know staff genuinely value their views and ideas. All children excitedly engage in activities of their choosing and are free to develop their play independently and in collaboration with their peers. They have extensive opportunities to develop skills through a wide range of activities.

Staff are well qualified, professional and have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. They are responsive and respect the children in their care and the decisions they make. Staff have a good understanding of children's individual needs and this helps to ensure that those needs are well met.

The environment is clean, spacious and well organised. Staff follow procedures well to ensure the environment is safe and suitable. The outdoor play area is secure and provides children with lots of varied opportunities for physical and imaginate activities. The indoor environment is welcoming and bright. There are suitable quantities of high quality resources that are stored effectively, allowing children to access them independently.

Managers provide sound and pro-active leadership, and this ensures a reliable, high quality service for children and parents. The management team has a clear vision for the service and shares this with staff. Managers support staff well, providing good development opportunities to keep their skills and knowledge up to date. There are good policies, procedures and records in place that staff implement well. Parents are very complimentary and speak highly of the staff and the care their children receive.

Well-being Excellent

Children have excellent choice, a strong voice and are clearly very happy at this service. They have free choice of what they do and also ask staff for things and know they will be provided. They are able to move freely between indoors or outdoors, and we saw children thoroughly enjoy accessing the outdoors. Children are very happy to interact with staff, asking for resources, chatting, and asking them to engage with them in play. Children are clearly extremely comfortable with the staff and enjoy spending time with them. They express themselves confidently, with each other, staff and are happy to talk to inspectors. They proudly told us about their after school club, the environment, and their favourite things to do.

Children feel very safe, happy and valued at the setting. They arrive happily and settle especially well. They develop secure and affectionate relationships with staff. These strong relationships support children to confidently make choices and participate positively in their play. Children are very familiar with the routines and this adds to their sense of belonging. Children told us they had made friends, some play with their school friends, and some play with older or younger children across the school years.

Children co-operate, take turns and share effectively, and they are developing sensitivity to the emotions of others. They demonstrate a very good understanding of what is expected of them whilst they are at the setting. Children of all ages are cared for together, so they benefit from forming friendships with both older and younger children. Children play happily alongside each other or together and share resources very well. Children are learning to negotiate their play and young children are learning to play co-operatively. Children smile proudly in response to the praise they receive for positive behaviour, and they interact well with staff and other children.

Children are interested and excited in the play-based activities on offer to them. They are extremely active and curious. They are happy and confident to move between activities freely, but also sustain interest in activities of their choosing for long periods. Children thoroughly enjoy playing physically and imaginatively in the extensive and well developed outdoor space. They play football, ride on scooters and excitedly explore the woodland walks, making potions and using sticks as pretend matches for their fires. Inside, Easter crafts are available and lots of the children engage with this. All children are well occupied throughout their time.

Children have many opportunities to develop their independence skills. For example, they access the toilet independently and routinely wash their hands. Children make choices about what they have for snack and pour their own drinks. We saw children happily playing independently of staff, who allowed them the space to explore and progress their own play.

Care and Development Good

Staff are very clear about their responsibilities and have good knowledge of how to keep children safe and healthy. They speak confidently about safeguarding procedures and know managers will be responsive to any concerns they raise. Procedures for recording the administering of medication, accidents, incidents and existing injuries are effective. A healthy snack is provided at the beginning of each session. Staff are supportive in encouraging children to try their foods and explain the importance of eating their meals, so they aren't hungry later. Staff provide access to fresh air and physical exercise daily and time outdoors for play is valued highly.

Staff work very well together to support and promote children's social interactions and behaviour. They are positive role models for children in their care, treating each other and children with respect and kindness. They interact and talk with the children, helping to create sociable times for the children. During meal times, staff chat with the children about how they are and how their day went. Staff take time to give clear instructions and explain what is expected. Staff are encouraging of children's effort and regularly praise this. Staff have a calm manner when managing behaviour.

Staff provide a nurturing and caring environment in which children's play and well-being are well promoted. Staff have a relaxed, happy and caring nature when interacting with the children. They have a good understanding of the children, their likes and dislikes, and this helps to ensure their care is responsive. The staff group are keen to ensure they are good facilitators of play. They are very considerate of the children's views and conscious to give children options and choices and to allow them to express themselves. Staff engage well with small groups of children during play, meaning children can interact with them and staff can effectively and sensitively support their play and development. Activities are almost all child-led. Staff are very conscious that children have already had a long day at school when they come into their care and need to be able to control their leisure time as they need. The Welsh language is included in the provision through some incidental phrases and the 'Welsh word of the day'.

Environment — Good

Managers and staff ensure the environment is safe and secure for children. They ask all visitors to sign in and out of the building. All staff are responsible for ensuring good hygiene throughout the day. They keep up-to-date suitable risk assessments for the setting. They also complete daily safety checks to identify, and where possible, eliminate any risks to children's safety. They undertake fire drills with children regularly and record these appropriately. Managers ensure insurance certificates are up to date, as well as routine safety checks for the building and appliances, such as fire safety equipment.

Managers and staff maintain the environment appropriately and provide a welcoming, child friendly space, which is suitable for the ages of the children cared for. They provide child-sized tables and chairs for children to do activities. They store an appropriate selection of resources where children can access them independently, supporting their free choice. The indoor play space is interesting and appealing, without being overwhelming to children. The outdoors provides lots of good opportunities for children. We saw children make very good use of the extensive outdoor space available to them. They use the yards for wheeled toys and games, a field for football and a woodland walk for exploring and imaginative play. There is also a cabin which is used for calm activities if children want some quiet time. The outdoors can be accessed directly from the indoor play space enabling children to move between the areas as they wish.

Leaders ensure children have access to a wide range of good quality resources which are suitable to the ages and likes of the children attending. These are in sufficient quantities to ensure children have good variety and free choice. There are lots of crafts and games which staff and children confirm to us are very popular. Staff and children also confirmed that additional resources are acquired at the requests of children. For example, the previous week a child had requested sewing activities and staff had sourced that for this week. The layout promotes children's independence well. Children are free to choose their activities in a calm and well-organised space.

Leadership and Management — Good

Managers are skilled and experienced, and manage the service to a high standard. There is a clear vision for the setting, reflected in the statement of purpose. There are clear policies and procedures which reflect the setting and current practice. Staff work consistently in line with these to support the smooth running of the setting. Operational records contain the necessary information. Records of children's information are mostly complete. Managers employ an appropriate number of suitably qualified and experienced staff to care for the children. Managers have high expectations of staff and support and challenge them to do their best.

Children and parents benefit from a service which is committed to improving outcomes for children and families. Managers have undertaken a thorough quality of care review, the report of which details what the setting does well and an action plan of what they want to improve. Managers undertake this review annually as required, and take into account the views of children, parents, staff and outside agencies such as local authority advisory staff. Managers work hard to ensure that they deliver high quality care.

Managers are effective in overseeing staff, managing their time and prioritising activities responsively to ensure that children's needs are met in a timely manner. We observed staff to be well organised, and the resulting relaxed care environment has a positive impact on the children's mood and their interactions. Staff confirmed they enjoy working at the setting and feel passionately about the service they provide for children and families. Robust recruitment procedures ensure that managers employ suitable staff to work with children. Managers demonstrate a commitment to the continuing professional development of staff; mandatory training is kept up to date and staff benefit from additional training to improve their skills. Staff receive regular supervisions and appraisals to reflect on their practice. Staff confirmed that they feel supported and know they can approach managers if needed.

Positive relationships with parents and the community are valued highly at this setting. Staff told us that the relationships they build with families are important to them and they are keen to ensure that parents feel they can approach them at any time. Parents are very complimentary about the service and the care their children receive. They reported that staff are very friendly and approachable. They ensure parents are kept informed of their child's day at handover, and parents told us they felt they had all the information they needed to make an informed choice about using the service. They reported *"Children are engaged, well looked after and staff are always happy to speak to parents about any queries we may have"*, and *"Our kids love coming here and they are hard to persuade to come home which tells us how much fun they have had"*.

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.

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)
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Seek parental permission for staff to authorise medical treatment in an emergency situation

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)
Strengthen the inclusion of the Welsh language

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