Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Tongwynlais Around School Group

Tongwynlais Primary School, Merthyr Road Tongwynlais, Cardiff, CF15 7LF

07354 378472

The inspection visit took place on 12/05/2026

Service Information:

Operated by:	The Committee of Tongwynlais Around School Group
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	48
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	Good
Environment	Good
Leadership & Management	Adequate

Summary:

Children are happy and settled. They have good opportunities to make choices about things that affect them and communicate confidently. Nearly all children behave well, playing together or alongside each other and developing friendly relationships with staff. Children enjoy a range of play and learning opportunities and have good opportunities to be independent and do things for themselves.

Staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy including their responsibilities in relation to child protection. They interact very well with children building positive relationships and acting as good role models. Staff support children's play and learning well.

Leaders ensure the environment is safe, secure and suitably clean. The club operates from classrooms within the school and enjoys the use of the attached large playground. Leaders provide a suitable range of equipment, toys and resources many of which children can access

independently.

Leaders are enthusiastic and committed to providing high quality childcare. They are aware of their regulatory responsibilities and mostly meet the requirements of the National Minimum Standards. Paperwork is generally organised although some documents were not available during the inspection visit. Leaders continually consider the effectiveness of the provision, but the annual quality of care review and improvement planning does not currently reflect this.

Findings:

Well-being — Good

Children have a strong voice. They have good opportunities to make choices about things that affect them such as requesting resources, choosing what they eat for snack or whether they play inside or outside. Children contribute their ideas to the club through a children's committee where they gather ideas about things they would like to do and record them in a spider diagram format. They are confident communicators as they know staff will respond to them and take account of their requests and ideas.

Children are happy and settled. They are comfortable with staff and approach them for help or support when they need it, showing they feel safe and valued. All the children attend the school the club operates from and are very familiar with the premises, routines and rules. This ensures they feel secure and have a sense of belonging.

Children behave well and play together or alongside each other. They listen well to instructions when asked to do something or stop doing something and join in with celebrating events such as a child's birthday by singing 'Happy Birthday' to them. Children have clear friendship groups and build positive, friendly relationships with staff. For example, they ask for help to find a ball to play with or excitedly show staff a bird's eggshell they have found before carefully taking it indoors to keep safe until home time.

Children enjoy a range of play and learning opportunities. They are active learners and initiate their own play from the activities they ask for. All children chose to play outside during our visit. They developed physical skills and played energetically with many playing ball games or competently using skipping ropes. Some enjoyed tabletop activities such as drawing or building with magnetic tiles in a covered area of the playground.

Children have good opportunities to be independent within the club. They decide what they want to do and with whom. They manage their own belongings, including collecting them independently when they go home, and use the bathroom independently. Children serve themselves with food at snack time and decide what they want to eat from the selection available. Doing things for themselves successfully promotes confidence and self-esteem.

Care & Development — Good

Staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. There is a mostly suitable safeguarding policy in place to support staff although procedures for reporting to external agencies are not fully clear. Staff are confident in knowing who to report any concerns to within their own organisation and the safeguarding leads demonstrate an appropriate understanding of their role. Accurate attendance registers for children and staff are in place. There are suitable systems for managing and recording accidents, injuries, incidents and medication administered which are shared with and signed by parents. Staff follow good hygiene procedures such as ensuring children wash their hands before eating and sanitising tables. They promote a healthy lifestyle. For example, they provide a healthy and substantial snack for children after school such as wraps, ham, cheese and fruit and ensure children have plenty of opportunities to play outside in the fresh air. There is a system to manage allergies and food preferences which includes details of signs, symptoms and remedies for any allergies.

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

Staff support children's play and learning well through their interactions. They enjoy being with children and clearly know them well. They provide a good range of resources and play opportunities which children choose for themselves either directly from storage areas or by requesting them. Staff welcome children's ideas and input by asking them what they want to do and facilitating the children's committee. They respond well when children invite them into their activities such as playing ball games with younger children. However, they understand that after school is children's time to play without undue adult intervention and they enable children to do this safely.

Environment — Good

Leaders ensure the environment is safe, secure and clean. The club operates from a school, and the premises are maintained by them. Leaders have access to the relevant building safety check records. Staff record visitors to the club. There are a range of general risk assessments in place which the responsible individual is currently reviewing. Staff consistently carry out and record daily risk assessments and safety checks including recording fridge temperatures. Staff carry out and record regular evacuation and lockdown procedures to ensure everyone knows what to do in an emergency.

The club operates from the open plan classrooms in the infant building. There is ample room for the children to move around and play freely with suitable furniture for children to use. Children independently access toilet facilities directly from the main play space. There is a spacious kitchen where staff can store food and have a lockable cupboard for storing confidential paperwork. Children can access their coats and belongings independently. There is a large storage cupboard which children can choose resources and equipment from, with older children often helping younger ones to find the things they want. The indoor space leads directly onto a large playground which provides further valuable opportunities for play. Children can move between inside and outside as they wish.

Leaders provide a varied range of toys, resources and equipment which are suitable for the children using them. Additionally, they can use some of the classroom resources such as the book corner. Outside children benefit from a range of resources that support their physical development such as balls and skipping ropes as well as spaces where they can engage in quieter activities if they choose.

Leadership & Management — Adequate

Leaders are enthusiastic and committed to providing quality care where children can begin their day in breakfast club or relax and play after school in a safe environment. The club is part of the Tongwynlais Around School Group (TAG) which includes a playgroup. Leaders have developed a parent handbook for TAG which includes a detailed statement of purpose. However, this has not been updated with recent relevant changes. The handbook contains other useful information for parents about policies and how the group operates. It is clear which setting within TAG is being referred to at various points. Leaders have a comprehensive range of policies which support the smooth and safe running of the group.

The responsible individual undertakes a quality of care review annually. She consults with children and parents informally and through questionnaires to gather their views of the service the club offers. Responses to the questionnaires are positive and show high satisfaction with the club. She works alongside staff daily and they have opportunities to contribute their views through regular discussions. The report of the review provides a summary of the comments and views gathered along with responses and any changes implemented as a result. However, it does not offer any self-evaluation of the effectiveness of the club against outcomes for children, consider any areas of the service they would like to improve or develop or identify an action plan for improvement.

Leaders and staff work well together. All are very experienced and nearly all are well qualified. Leaders ensure staff renew mandatory training such as paediatric first aid, safeguarding and food hygiene in a timely manner. They follow safe recruitment practice and ensure all necessary checks, such as Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, and documentation are in place. Many staff have been at the playgroup for several years and told us they enjoy working there and feel well supported. The leader provides suitable regular supervision and appraisal meetings for staff.

The leader and staff develop strong relationships with parents. They gather necessary information so they can provide for children's individual needs and keep parents informed about what their children do through daily verbal feedback. Parents we spoke to spoke very highly of the setting and said their children enjoy attending. Children we spoke to said they like attending the club because they can do things they enjoy.

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.

CIW has no areas for improvement identified following this inspection.

CIW has not issued any Priority action notices following this inspection.

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 20 - Child protection	Ensure reporting procedures are clarified in the child protection policy and all staff are aware of them.
Standard 1 - Information	Ensure the statement of purpose is kept fully up to date and Care Inspectorate Wales is informed when any changes are made.
Standard 18 - Quality assurance	Develop the Quality of Care review to be evaluative of outcomes for children and to consider areas for development or improvement.

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