

Cornton Out of School Care Day Care of Children

Cornton Primary School
Stirling
FK9 5DZ

Telephone: 07753 830 515

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
4 June 2021

Service provided by:
Cornton Out of School Care a Scottish
Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Service provider number:
SP2019013335

Service no:
CS2019376102

About the service

Cornton Out of School Club registered with the Care Inspectorate on 14 August 2019. It provides an out of school care service to a maximum of 24 children at any one time, age from 4 to 12 years.

Children from Cornton Primary School attend the service that is based in designated areas in the school. The areas include the school gym/dining and outdoor play areas. The two exit doors off the gym hall have supported safe arrangements during the COVID-19 pandemic including providing a one way system for families collecting children and direct access to the outdoor space. Toilet facilities are in close proximity to the gym hall and portable hand washing sinks have supported enhanced hand washing. Advice from environmental health supported decision making about the management of the snack experience as the service does not have access to a kitchen area.

Cornton Out of School Care aims to provide reliable, quality care for children aged 4.5 - 12 years who attend Cornton Primary School.

The service will provide a range of social and recreational activities including crafts, outdoor play, imaginative play, den building and much more. Space will also be provided for quieter activities such as reading. During the session, children will be provided with a healthy snack. Adhering to the principles of play work, it is important that the play will be led by the children, freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons. Skills Active - Playwork Principles
COSC aims to promote the advancement of children's social and emotional development and education through play'

We carried out an unannounced inspection of Cornton Out of School Club. We undertook an onsite visit on Thursday 27 May 2021 and continued the inspection using virtual methodology. We provided feedback to the Manager on Friday 04 June 2021. As part of the inspection process, we undertook the following:

- Observed children arriving at the service
- Observed snack time and children having fun in the service indoors and outside
- Spoke with children attending the service
- Observed parent's collecting their children
- Video and telephone call contact with the manager and staff
- Email contact with parents
- Review of written evidence such as personal plans, policies, procedures and risk assessments
- Review of communication evidence for families including emails and social media posts.

This was a focussed inspection to evaluate how well children were being supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic. This inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

We spoke with six children who said they enjoyed playing netball and spending most of their time outdoors. They told us that they stayed safe during the pandemic by hand washing and told us that the adults physically distanced and sometimes wore face masks.

We spoke with a member of the committee who told us about the recruitment of staff and the journey the service had been on because of the National lockdown and the re-opening of the service.

- Three parents provided feedback about their experience of the service. Comments included:
- Regular updates via Facebook group of when the club was closed and potential reopening times. Once confirmation of opening, I was advised of updated policies. The Cosc manager, Kim is always available to discuss any additional requirements. Although I have not needed to request any she and the rest of the staff take a keen interest in the kids and provide feedback at collection or discuss anything that may have come up.
- They have focussed on outdoor play to reduce the Covid risk. This has not just been put the kids outside, they have ensured they have activities and equipment to keep them entertained. This intention was communicated verbally once the club started back up.
- They have sourced a lot more toys and equipment to entertain the kids, communicated via the Facebook group. Certain toys are not used as not easily cleaned.
- New staff have joined and seem fully trained and up to speed. There is an area segregated off with a barrier and table to aid collection and social distancing. Staff wearing masks, hand sanitiser, signage etc Again collection changes discussed verbally once club restated.
- It would be good to see the club get further support to expand their offering to others to enjoy. Possibly increased access to the school facilities would be good. The staff do a great job with the area they have but it's a shame the facilities within the school can't be further used such as kitchen and library.
- Staff and parents that run club have done amazing work to get the club going again through all the uncertainty. They have increased the number of children attending which makes it more enjoyable. New equipment has been purchased.
- The staff really engage with the kids and provide an enjoyable environment. They have always had a great time when collected.
- My two children love attending the club. They have great fun and are looked after by all staff. The staffs care and kindness has meant they settled in straight away.
- I am a parent that uses COSC. We are really pleased with the service and the way it has communicated with us during lockdown.
- During the pandemic, we received emails from Kim with frequent updates.
- When the service reopened there was clear guidance on the new procedures that were in place.
- There is a one way system in place, staff wear masks, children have individual resources which are cleaned every session, my kids tell me about washing and sanitising their hands. There is never more than one parent in the hall during pick up. Parents are advised to text to say when they will be collecting their children. Also, the children play out doors as much as they possibly can.
- I am enjoying the fact that more children are starting to use the club again and there is a nice atmosphere amongst the children.

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 and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	4 - Good
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

4 - Good

Quality Indicator 5.1: Children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19

Key areas we assessed include the extent to which:

- children are nurtured and supported throughout their changed experience in their early learning and childcare setting
- effective communication with families enables responsive care to support children through changing circumstances.

Warm and nurturing interactions helped children to feel safe and secure. Throughout the National lockdown, relationships were maintained using digital technology to stay in touch with families. Knowing children as individuals and an awareness of their changing needs contributed to a smooth and positive transition when they returned to the service.

Children were supported to understand the reason for changes within the service including honest conversations about what COVID-19 meant for them and the safety measures in place to protect them. Children expressed their feelings through their artwork for instance, we saw drawings of 'nasty germs' and the face masks they had designed. Staff were mindful of the need to support children's emotional wellbeing and had developed strategies that met their individual needs. Children told us about the arrangements in place that kept everyone safe and well. They said that adults physically distanced and wore face coverings and described the one-way system that prevented congestion at collection times.

Children's choices were supported through a balanced approach to using both indoors and the outside area. Most children spent their time outside in the fresh air minimising the spread of the virus. However, some children chose to spend some quiet time indoors playing with some of the toys and resources available.

Staff were able to meet children's individual health and wellbeing needs by gathering information in consultation with families and updating each child's personal plan. We suggested that the use of a personal risk assessment would support a rigorous approach to minimising any risk to children with an additional support need. Advice was given on how to extend the information within personal plans showing each child's learning journey and supporting them to achieve their potential whilst in the service.

Snack time supported children to have a social time whilst having a choice of food and a drink. However, there was scope to develop this experience further. For instance, where possible to enable children some independence in safe ways. The service was restricted by a lack of access to a kitchen but we would encourage a review of the snack foods provided so that children are provided with healthy options. The service should refer to guidance 'Healthy Eating in Schools A guide to implementing the nutritional requirements for food and drink in schools (Scotland) regulations 2008. This guidance looks at the dietary needs of school age children helping schools and out of school providers to consider what is a healthy diet for the children in their care. **(See area for improvement 1)**

Reference:

<https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/1531/healthy-eating-in-schools.pdf>

Quality Indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff

Key areas we assessed include the extent to which:

- children are protected as staff take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

The health and safety of children was protected as staff took the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection. The environment was visibly clean and good infection prevention and control practices were followed by staff. For instance, regular high touch point cleaning along with thorough cleaning between sessions helped to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus and adequate supplies of appropriate cleaning materials were available. Physical distancing between staff and with parents was observed and the environment well ventilated.

A range of policies, procedures and risk assessments were developed to support the delivery of a safe environment that reflected current guidance. The risk assessment was being developed to reflect all measures in place that kept children safe. For instance, there were measures in place that kept children safe when members of the public visited the outdoor space that was used by the service and shared with the local community.

Children told us that they washed their hands regularly. Enhanced hand washing minimised the spread of infection. Watching hand washing videos, visual instructions for hand washing and staff supervision meant children were supported to hand wash taking account of the guidance. The manager felt the use of a timer would support children further to hand wash for the 20 seconds independently.

Quality Indicator 5.3: Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19

Key areas we assessed include the extent to which:

- staffing arrangements meet the needs of children and families
- staff are well supported and confident.

Changes to the staff team since registration meant that the manager was the key person that maintained contact with families during the National lockdown. This maintained relationships and supported children to feel safe and secure on their return to the service. Families told us that new staff had settled well, and children had already started to build trusting relationships with them.

Deployment of staff was effective in meeting the needs of children and managing the additional tasks that contributed to children's health wellbeing and safety. Staff were knowledgeable of Scottish Government COVID-19 guidance. We observed practice that implemented the guidance. Routines and additional tasks being carried out did not compromise the quality-of-care play and learning experiences for children. Training in infection prevention and control and accessible policy and procedure and risk assessments meant that all staff were aware of their responsibility to maintain a safe environment for children and families.

The service was recruiting staff to ensure they have a contingency plan in place so staff who are absent are covered by staff familiar to children and families. Staff felt their wellbeing was supported by the manager. They spoke highly of the support they received both professionally and personally. Some of the informal opportunities for staff to have professional dialogue should now be formalised to support the continued professional learning of the team.

Areas for improvement

1. The service should develop the snack time experience so that:

Where possible, children are enabled to develop skills that support their independence in safe ways a review should be undertaken to develop the snack options so they are healthy.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'My meals and snacks meet my cultural and dietary needs, beliefs and preferences.' (HSCS 1.37)

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	4 - Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	4 - Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	4 - Good
5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19	4 - Good

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

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