

# Strathallan Out of School Club Day Care of Children

Strathallan Primary School  
Strathallan Drive  
Kirkcaldy  
KY2 5YP

Telephone: 07515 189 480

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
7 September 2023

**Service provided by:**  
Fife Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2004005267

**Service no:**  
CS2006140833

## About the service

Strathallan Out of School Club is a day care of children service provided by Fife Council. The service operates within Strathallan Primary School. They have use of the dining and gym hall which are all on one level. There is direct access to the playground for outdoor play. The service is registered to provide care to a maximum of 40 children at any one time, age from 4 to 18 years. During school holidays the maximum number of children may be 48. The service will have access to areas of the premises as agreed with the Headteacher.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Wednesday 6 September 2023 between 14:45 and 18:00. Feedback was provided the following day using virtual technology. The 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 information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with all children using the service
- spoke with three families during the inspection
- reviewed feedback from families using MS forms
- reviewed feedback from staff members employed in the service using MS forms
- spoke with senior management and all staff
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children were happy and engaged during their time at the club. They told us they enjoyed attending the club and always had fun.
- Children benefitted from positive relationships with staff.
- Staff interactions were respectful, and children were listened to showing them they were valued.
- The staff team were motivated, enthusiastic and genuinely cared for the children.
- Children had daily access to outdoor spaces this encouraged healthy lifestyles, fresh air and active play.
- To support continuous improvements, the service should now embed their quality assurance processes and improvement planning. This will ensure children and families experience outcomes that are as positive as possible.

## 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, play and learning? | 4 - Good     |
| How good is our setting?                 | 4 - Good     |
| How good is our leadership?              | 3 - Adequate |
| How good is our staff team?              | 4 - Good     |

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

## How good is our care, play and learning?

## 4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

### **Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support.**

Children were happy, relaxed and having fun during our visit. Staff took time to listen and respond to children's needs, choices and wishes as a result they experienced nurturing care and support. This encouraged children to feel valued, included and respected.

Children were warmly welcomed by staff, and they were keen to chat to staff about their day. They told us that they enjoyed coming to the club and one child told us they would like to come every day as they have so much fun.

All the parents we spoke to were very happy with the care and support their children received. One parent commented that, "the staff know my child well. They have made a real effort to ensure that he has settled at after school club."

Personal plans had been developed since the last inspection and were in place for all children. These plans contained key information that supported staff to meet the individual needs of children. Allergy and health needs were accurately recorded and known to all staff to ensure children were kept safe. The service had just introduced new 'all about me' forms. All children were in the process of completing these with staff. This supported children to feel valued included and listened to, by staff who knew their individual interests, wishes and choices. This was in the early stages. Once fully established this will provide children with a greater sense of ownership of their next steps for play, learning and development.

Children enjoyed snack time in an unhurried and relaxed atmosphere, contributing to a sociable and positive experience for children. The snacks on offer were nutritious and alternatives were offered if children did not like the food options that day. Children helped to plan and order the weekly snack, and this encouraged children to be responsible and included.

Water was accessible to children throughout the session which helped ensure they were kept well hydrated.

Staff spoke confidently about their role in safeguarding and protecting children. They knew how they would record and report any concerns. Regular safeguarding training helped keep staff up to date and confident in their roles.

### **Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning.**

Children were engaged in various play experiences and activities. They were supported by nurturing and responsive staff when appropriate. Children were having fun as they played independently and cooperatively with friends. This encouraged children to develop positive relationships as they played together, shared and took turns. We observed children independently choosing what activities to participate in, these included; art and craft, puzzles, and games. We suggested the service further develop loose parts play using natural materials and open-ended resources. This will support children to be creative, problem solve and use their imagination. Children had daily opportunities to take part in active play outside and benefitted from fresh air and exercise. Families also told us they liked the variety of experiences on offer to children, one parent said,

"I like the organised activities with the staff showing kids how to do experiments."

Staff were responsive to children's interests and interactions were caring and nurturing. This contributed to children feeling valued, loved and included. Staff used effective questioning and interacted with children in a responsive and stimulating way.

Planning was child led and children were able to use suggestion boards to share their wishes and choices with staff. This approach encouraged children to feel valued, respected and included. Floor books were used to reflect on activities and experiences and children were able to evaluate their play and learning experiences with staff. Children were encouraged to share their opinions and shape their own experiences.

Procedures were in place that created a safe environment for children. For example, risk assessments were in place and staff used these to minimise potential risk. This meant that children were safe. Infection control procedures were in place which further supported children's health, wellbeing and safety. For example, areas were clean as staff cleaned surfaces before and after children played.

### How good is our setting?

**4 - Good**

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

#### **Quality indicator: 2.2 Children experience high-quality facilities.**

Children benefitted from a large space which was light, well-ventilated and clean. Areas were organised to promote children's interests and choices. For example, construction, imaginative play resources and art areas supported a wide choice for children in their play. Children benefitted from daily outdoor play opportunities and told us they loved going outside to play with their friends. We suggested that spaces for children to rest and relax be available every day. The service had a wide range of cushions, bean bags and blankets to support this. This would further support individual children's emotional wellbeing.

Children had direct access to the outdoor area. It was spacious with a large grass area, providing children with opportunities to engage in active and challenging play. This supported children to be active and healthy.

Notice boards with key information for families and children were displayed. This supported a shared approach as families knew what to expect from the service.

Children's artwork was creatively displayed, and this ensured that children felt valued. This contributed positively to children's self-confidence showing them they mattered.

### How good is our leadership?

**3 - Adequate**

We evaluated this theme as adequate. Whilst strengths had a positive impact on children, key areas should be improved.

#### **Quality indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well.**

Management and staff had strong values and promoted a positive nurturing experience for all children using the club. Since their last inspection, the staff team had changed, and they were working well together to ensure positive outcomes for children and families.

Valuable time had been spent on developing positive relationships and a shared vision to improve the service.

Although quality assurance systems were now in place it was in the early stages and needed more time to fully embed. The manager and staff should prioritise this to ensure continuous improvement. We suggested the service use parent and child feedback to support the development of their improvement plan. Families were asked for their feedback and opinions, and this was used to support improvement. Families confirmed that they had opportunities to give feedback. All families we spoke to during our visit were happy with the service they received.

Management and staff told us they valued the views of children and their families. Verbal discussion provided opportunities for responsive feedback from parents. Children were informally encouraged to share feedback about the range of experiences and activities they were involved in. We observed staff consulting with children throughout their session and responding to their ideas. The manager and staff should now use this as part of their self-evaluation. By using feedback in a meaningful way this will support the ongoing improvement of the service. This will encourage families and children to be fully involved in the life of the service.

## How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

### Quality indicator: 4.3 Staff deployment.

Children were welcomed on their arrival by staff. This approach showed children they mattered and were valued.

The staff team worked well together and were courteous and respectful to each other. This provided a happy and relaxed environment for children. Staff were responsive and motivated. They encouraged children to make choices and lead their own play. They supported children to access outdoors, and a variety of activities within the play space. Interactions between staff and children were caring and responsive. For example, staff supported a young child to join in with other as they noticed they were on their own. This sensitive approach ensured children felt valued and included.

Staff provided individualised support by effectively engaging with children and took account of their views when setting up activities and experiences. Staff were flexible and supportive of children's interests. This encouraged children to feel valued and included.

Staff communicated well with each other when carrying out necessary tasks or leaving the play space. This helped to ensure children's needs were being met.

Core training had been completed for all staff. This included child protection and first aid. Moving forward the manager should ensure staff can reflect on their learning so children are supported by knowledgeable staff.

## What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

### Areas for improvement

#### Previous area for improvement 1

The manager and staff could further develop children's personal plans so they contain more detailed information about children's health and well-being needs. For example, any triggers they need to be aware of and procedures they need to follow if a child becomes unwell.

**This area for improvement was made on 3 March 2023.**

#### Action taken since then

Personal plans are in place for all children. These have recently been developed to be more child friendly and all children have completed them with support from staff.

#### Previous area for improvement 2

To enable children to benefit from a sociable and enjoyable experience while eating, the provider should review their policy and procedures for snack and mealtimes. This should include, but not limited to, ensuring opportunities for children to develop important independence skills.

**This area for improvement was made on 3 March 2023.**

#### Action taken since then

Progress has been made and children are now meaningfully involved in snack planning and preparation. This supports children to develop important life skills.

#### Previous area for improvement 3

Staff should review how they plan and evaluate activities so that children benefit from participating in a range of stimulating experiences, both in and outdoors. They should ensure that children have access to a range of play types that promote their interests, allow them to take risk and encourage creativity

**This area for improvement was made on 3 March 2023.**

#### Action taken since then

Children are consulted in planning activities and experiences both indoors and outdoors. Some resources are on order to support this. The service should further develop the use of natural open-ended resources indoors.

#### Previous area for improvement 4

Staff should be supported to identify training or best guidance that would support their professional development and have a positive impact on the service for children.

**This area for improvement was made on 3 March 2023.**

## Action taken since then

Staff training plan has been implemented and staff are using training opportunities to develop and reflect on their own practice.

## Previous area for improvement 5

To ensure that children's health, safety and wellbeing is not compromised, the provider should ensure risk assessments are effective and working as planned to maintain a safe environment. These should be clear and easily understood by all people involved in the service. Staff involvement in developing the risk assessments will support this to be a shared approach and impact positively on these being implemented into practice.

**This area for improvement was made on 3 March 2023.**

## Action taken since then

Risk assessments are in the process of being reviewed and updated, staff have a good understanding of risk and how to safeguard children.

## Previous area for improvement 6

To improve outcomes for children and ensure that there is a culture of improvement in the club, an effective system of quality assurance to monitor and improve systems and practice should be implemented.

**This area for improvement was made on 3 March 2023.**

## Action taken since then

New staff team are committed to improving and developing the club. Quality assurance systems are in place and now need time to monitor impact. Improvement plan is in process of being developed with staff, children and families.

## Previous area for improvement 7

The manager and staff should re-establish systems to support their work. This should include:

- reviewing the provision so that children have access to a range of stimulating activities
- providing opportunities to support the development and cohesive working of the new staff team.

**This area for improvement was made on 3 March 2023.**

## Action taken since then

The manager and staff have been working together to audit the resources, with new resources ordered. The induction process has supported both members of staff and the team is working well together to meet the needs of children and families.

## Previous area for improvement 8

To ensure effective supervision and quality engagement with children, the provider should work with staff to define their individual roles and responsibilities.



This area for improvement was made on 3 March 2023.

#### Action taken since then

Clearly defined roles and responsibilities have been developed and are in place. This provides all staff with clarity in relation to their individual roles in the service.

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Detailed evaluations

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| How good is our care, play and learning?           | 4 - Good     |
| 1.1 Nurturing care and support                     | 4 - Good     |
| 1.3 Play and learning                              | 4 - Good     |
| How good is our setting?                           | 4 - Good     |
| 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities    | 4 - Good     |
| How good is our leadership?                        | 3 - Adequate |
| 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well | 3 - Adequate |
| How good is our staff team?                        | 4 - Good     |
| 4.3 Staff deployment                               | 4 - Good     |

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