

Wraparound in Schools Case Study: Barlby Primary School

Read about how one school in the Bi-borough (Westminster, and Kensington and Chelsea) supports their families through a successful internally-run afterschool programme. This afterschool club utilises key staff to support the children and supports inclusion through thoughtful staffing, training, and inclusive practices.

About the school

We are a Community School with 386 children on roll. We're fortunate that we are a full school and because of numbers, we run the school as a two-form entry. We serve a community that faces a remarkably high level of challenge. It's a pocket of deprivation here in North Kensington and most of our children live in social housing. We have a brilliant supportive parent community, but our greatest challenge is low aspirations. Most of our families are not working, and many have faced intergenerational unemployment. We're also part of the Grenfell community so some of our families have been displaced or rehoused and we do have a very high degree of social emotional need within the school.

Some of our children come to us at 7:45am and leave at 6pm and if they do that, they can access three meals a day with us. The fact that we run an afterschool club in-house gives us the flexibility to offer social places. Our SEND figure for the whole school is 30% and we have a resource base for children with autism which supports 18 children. Some of our children, as you would expect, are subject to child protection plans or child in need plans and a number of our children are looked after. But because of the high number of children on plans we really do need this facility for their safety and for their well-being. We love the fact that we're inclusive, it's absolutely brilliant, it's part of our vision. It's what we want to be and what we want to continue to do but it does put a lot of financial pressure on us. We must be really solution-focused, particularly around staffing as you would expect so we have made some quite significant changes there.

Your current wraparound offer

Breakfast club begins at 7:45am. All children get breakfast and then have a choice of activities. There is a community room on the ground floor with its own kitchen. Some of the children, particularly the younger children prefer to stay inside and do some art and craft-based activities as it's very quiet. Our children go to class at 8:20am so it's only 35 minutes. The older children tend to favour using the playground and the space leads onto the playground. They've got a multi-use games area so they can have some team sports and in wet weather there's there's also the option to use the hall because that's available at that time of day. It's very easy to manage and we have a very relaxed approach with bookings, it isn't pre booked, it's ad hoc.

Afterschool club runs until 6pm and is an inclusive space. Children can utilise the space in the hall or the outside playground space for activities and games. Our provision is split into two sessions so

there's a collection at 4:30 pm and another at 6:00 pm. Enrichment clubs run in conjunction to this until 4:30pm and include things like lego, cooking, dance, football and many more.

I think for us in our, in our context it's less about working parents needing childcare until later in the day, I think it's more about their children being able to access after school active activities, because so many of our families live in overcrowded conditions in unsuitable housing or are facing challenges within their own family. Our offer really appeals to parents where there is a greater level of need and and I think it's parental perception that there's not enough happening in the community and the fact that we will keep the children until 6pm, I think that appeals.

Feedback:

(from children)

"The games at Play Centre are different from PE and the school day. We have different experiences here."

"I like to do the inside activities best. I play with everyone. I like playing with the Lego."

"I like basketball it's my favourite thing, football is my second favourite thing, and my third favourite thing is to go down the slide."

"I wasn't playing football much but now because I come here (to Play Centre) I do it more and more and am getting better."

Training and teamwork

Everyone that works in the in the Play Centre (ASC) is also a member of the Barlby staff, which means that they access all the CPD. As our CPD is very heavily weighted towards autism and SEND, as they're accessing that training in-house it can then be used in the evenings for staff working in the Play Centre. Having staff run your wraparound care, accessing your CPD offer also means that they can understand and adhere to your school values, and that's something that's really important to me. My experience in the past with outsourcing was that it was almost as if when the school day ends and then a whole other set of values takes over and that didn't work for us.

Inclusivity

Staff have a really good understanding of the children and their needs and have systems in place to support children with SEND. If a child does become dysregulated in the play provision, they have access to the soft play area and the sensory room. Every child with additional needs has a pen portrait, so the whole staff team know what their strengths are, what their motivators are, what their triggers are, and what might result in dysregulation. It's a very predictable offer for the children every day, regular people, regular space, and very ordered. It's structured play. It's not free for all.

Successes

A huge reason that the provision is such a success is the fact that it's the same adults in the day as it is in the evening. We are extremely fortunate to have Alan, he is a very experienced play worker, sports coach and chef. He comes over to us at lunchtime and we're really lucky to have that key person running our Play Centre.

Challenges

Funding has been a challenge for us. It's frustrating that over the years we've been delivering on something that the government didn't see as important. But because it's such an integral part of our ethos and our vision for the school, we've been doing it for years because in a community like ours, it's essential.

Anything else to add

Having an extended day provision is incredibly attractive to parents. When you show perspective parents around the school inevitably, they ask what the offer is, and an in-house offer is very attractive. There's a real sense of family within the provision and I think as a Community School that is really important. You can underestimate the sense of belonging and connection and I think when you've got children with you all day and I mean all day, it makes such a difference. It makes a difference to behaviour and emotional well-being.