

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019CW002SA
Name of School Age Service:	Cill an Oir Afterschool, Carlow Regional Youth Service
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Kathryn Wall
Address of School Age Service:	32 Cill an Oir, Graiguecullen, Co. Carlow.
Eircode:	R93 K6E5

Dates of Inspection:	04 July 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Non-Applicable	PM	7
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not Applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Primary Care Centre, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	L O' Connor A. Spain
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect
Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

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Description of Service:

Cill an Oir Afterschool, Carlow Regional Youth Service is located in Graiguecullen which is located the outskirts of Carlow town. It caters for 22 children aged 7 to 12 years old. The service operates from a purpose-built building within a residential area. It is open from 2pm to 6.45pm Monday to Friday.

Within the service, there are two care rooms provided for the school age children. A kitchen and sanitary area are also available. The children have access to an outdoor area at the rear of the premises.

The registered provider operates two other school age services within Co. Carlow.

Staffing:

There are six adults employed within the service. This does not include the registered provider who does not work with the children.

On the day of inspection, there were three adults working directly with the children.

Additional Information:

The inspectors conducted a planned focused inspection of the service.

Legislation

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of School Age Services in Ireland, and its role is to promote and monitor the safety and quality of school age care provision in accordance with the following legislation:

- The Child and Family Agency Act 2013, Part 12.
- Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2022.
- The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018).

A school age service means any early years service, play group, day nursery, crèche, day-care or other similar service which:

- a) caters for children under the age of 15 years enrolled in a school providing primary or post-primary education,
- b) provides a range of activities that are developmental, educational and recreational in manner, which take place outside of school hours, the primary purpose of which is to care for children where their parents are unavailable, and
- c) the basis for access to which is made publicly known to the parents and guardians of the children referred to in point (a) above.

It is the responsibility of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of school age children and the above legislation authorises Tusla to assess compliance with the Regulations.

Inspection Methodology:

The inspection is unannounced to assess compliance with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018), Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2022, and the Child Care Act 1991, Section 58 as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

The findings on inspection are gathered through a triangulation method, including:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation.
- Direct observation.
- Discussion with relevant staff.

This inspection aims to determine the extent to which service is appropriate for the care, safety, and wellbeing of children in accordance with the regulations cited above.

Inspection findings are documented in the School Age Services inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have corrected the non-compliance and how they will prevent them from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements, an escalation process may be commenced.

The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit CAPA responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the Inspectorate body.

Acknowledgements:

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the children, person in charge, and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Summary of Findings:

On inspection, the registered provider was found to be compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures (1)(2);
- Regulation 9: (1)(2)(4) Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance;
- Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Conclusion and follow-up actions:

The service was found to be compliant with Regulation 8; Vetting disclosures, Regulation 9(1) (2)(4); Staffing levels Regulation 12; Insurance and Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures

(1) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent, taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

(2) The procedures specified in paragraph 1 shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1)(2)

Seven staff files were reviewed. The required documentation, including Garda vetting disclosures and validated references, were available for review. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

It was demonstrated through the review that the required documentation was in place prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

Regulation 9: Staffing levels

- (1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of competent and suitable adults on the premises while the service is operating.*
- (2) Without prejudice to paragraph (1), a registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that there is a minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children at all times while the service is operating.*
- (4) A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that the school age children attending the service are appropriately supervised at all times.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1)(2)(4)

The adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the inspection. On the day, there was seven children present with three adults in the service.

The children were appropriately supervised throughout the inspection. The staff were observed to remain within an appropriate distance to supervise the children by sight and sound.

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Regulation 12: Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the school age service is adequately insured.

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service was insured for 22 children to attend at any one time

Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

It shall be the duty of every person providing an early years service to take all reasonable measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending the service and to comply with regulations made by the Minister under this Part.

Regulatory Requirement Met

During the inspection, the inspector observed the health, safety and welfare of the children being supported as follows:

- Children's individual choice was supported throughout the inspection. For example, children were provided choice in the activity which they partook in and they were observed to move through the service freely to do so. The children had access to two rooms inside the service and an outdoor area. On the day of inspection, five of the children played a ball game outdoors while two children were indoors listening to music and drawing.
- The staff members positively recognised children's individual interests. For example, one child engaged in what was described as "free style dancing". The staff members recognised the child's passion for dancing and encouraged the child to share their achievements with the inspectors. Another child demonstrated an interest in drawing. The staff members positively noted this and outlined the types of drawing the child enjoys doing. This supports children's well-being and their sense of identity.
- Interactions between the staff members and children were responsive, reciprocal and playful. The staff members were familiar with each child and their personality. The staff moved freely to different children and engaged in conversation with the children throughout the inspection.