

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019DR013SA
Name of School Age Service:	The Club at Carysfort
Name of Registered Providers:	Gemma Holohan Nicola Reardon
Address of School Age Service:	Carysfort National School, Convent Road, Blackrock, Dublin
Eircode:	A94 Y516

Date of Inspection:	27 November 2024		
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM	45	
Registration status:	Registered		
Conditions (if applicable):	N/A		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Siant John's Road West, Dublin 8. D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	A. Bradshaw
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).

Description of Service:

The service is based in a primary school in south Co. Dublin. The service uses a modular building, a general-purpose hall, and a library once the school day is over. There are two outdoor spaces for the children, including an all-weather pitch, and a hockey pitch.

The service is registered to accommodate up to 60 children aged between 4 and 12 years of age. On the day of the inspection, there were 45 children present. The service is registered to operate from 8.00am to 8.50am and from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. The registered providers stated that they do not operate on Fridays.

Staffing:

The service employs 11 staff to care for the children. This includes the registered providers who are included in the rosters to work directly with the children.

Additional Information:

The inspector carried out 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:

- caters for children under the age of 15 years enrolled in a school providing primary or post-primary education,
- 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
- 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, registered providers, and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Summary of Findings:

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

- Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures(1)(c);
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance.

On inspection, the registered provider was found non-compliant in:

- Regulation 8: Garda Vetting(1)(a)(b)(d)(2);
- Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Conclusion and follow up actions: The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their corrective and preventive action plan, for Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(2) and the Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013 have adequately addressed the non-compliance identified on inspection.

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their corrective and preventive action plan, for Regulation 8(1)(d) did not address the non-compliance identified on inspection. This remains non-compliant and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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

The inspector reviewed 11 staff files, and the following was noted:

- (1)(c) Garda vetting was available for 11 staff members

Regulatory Requirement not met

- (1)
- (a)(b) The required validated references were not available for six staff members while it is acknowledged that validated references were available for five staff.
- (d) Police vetting was unavailable for three staff members who have resided outside of the state for more than six months. Documents were not available to determine if police vetting was required for four staff members.

(2)

Evidence was available to demonstrate that the relevant vetting disclosures were not carried out prior to any person working directly with the school age children. For example, the following was not available to the inspector:

- Police vetting for three staff;
- Records to demonstrate that staff members did not live outside the state;
- All staff did not have the required validated references on file.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)

(a)(b) The registered provider submitted evidence to demonstrate that validated references were now in place for all staff members.

(d) Police vetting was submitted for one staff member. While it is acknowledged that evidence to demonstrate that police vetting had been applied for two staff members, the required vetting remains outstanding.

(2)

The registered provider stated that all vetting disclosures will be completed prior to staff members beginning their employment. A copy of an amended and updated vetting policy was submitted as evidence.

Summary of Findings

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their corrective and preventive action plan, for Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(2) have adequately addressed the non-compliance identified on inspection.

However, the actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their corrective and preventive action plan, for Regulation 8(1)(d) did not address the non-compliance identified on inspection. This remains non-compliant and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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.*
- (3) *Without prejudice to paragraph (1), a registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service singlehandedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance in operating the service to the person in charge is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge or the registered provider of the childminding service in the event of an emergency.*
- (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

On the day of the inspection, the registered providers ensured that the appropriate staffing levels were in place. Six staff members supervised 45 children. On a review of records and through a discussion with staff, the registered providers maintained the required staff-child ratio from 30 September 2024 to 24 October 2024.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service had insurance in place for a maximum of 68 children at any one time. The insurance was valid from 10 September 2024 to 27 March 2025.

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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 not met

On review of the staff files, the service demonstrated non-compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years as one staff member's Garda vetting had not been renewed.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

A copy of a current Garda vetting was submitted to the Inspectorate.
No preventative action was submitted.

Summary of Findings

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their corrective and preventive action plan, have adequately addressed the non-compliance identified on inspection.