

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019KE005SA
Name of School Age Service:	Shooting Stars
Name of Registered Provider:	Miriam Fleming
Address of School Age Service:	Ballyoulster Football Club, Loughlinstown Road, Celbridge, Co Kildare.
Eircode:	W23 H1FX

Date of Inspection:	20 February 2024
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 33
Registration status:	Registered

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Brunel Building, Saint John's Road West, Heuston South Quarter, 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:

Shooting Stars is a school age service owned and operated by the registered provider. The service is based in a local football team's clubhouse on the outskirts of Celbridge town. The service has a dedicated care room in the building and the use of a second room where children can complete their homework and have their meals.

The service is registered to accommodate up to 35 children from the age of 4 up to 12 years of age. On the day of the inspection, there were 33 children present.

The service is registered to operate from 1pm to 6pm during the school term and from 8.30am to 6pm outside of the school academic calendar. The service operates 48 weeks of the year.

The children have access to a grassed area at the back of the building and a smaller covered area if the weather is inclement.

Staffing:

There are a total of four staff members employed in the service. The registered provider works directly with the children. On the day of the inspection, there were 4 staff caring for 33 children.

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 provider, and staff who were present on the day of the inspection.

Summary of Findings:

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

Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures;

Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels;

Regulation 12: Insurance.

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)(a)(b)(c)(d)

The inspector reviewed four staff files. The registered provider had ensured that validated references were available and that all staff members had current Garda vetting in place. The documentation reviewed showed that one staff member required police vetting which was available during inspection.

(2)

On review of the documents available, the inspector was satisfied that the required procedures were carried out prior to staff members working directly with the children.

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)

On the day of the inspection, the registered providers ensured that appropriate staffing levels were maintained. The 33 children attending the service were directly supervised by 4 adults.

A review of the staff roster, staff sign-in sheets and a record of the children's attendance from 22 January to 16 February 2024 demonstrated the minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children was maintained during this period.

During the inspection, staff were observed to check with children regarding their preferred activities and organise materials and equipment to facilitate their choices.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The registered provider has ensured the service was insured. The service was insured from 28 February 2023 to 27 February 2024.