

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019KE013SA
Name of School Age Service:	The Afterschoolers Club
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Lindsey McElligott
Address of School Age Service:	Scoil na Mainistreach, Oldtown Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.
Eircode:	W23 VR98

Date of Inspection:	11 March 2024		
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM	10	
Registration status:	Registered		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Saint 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).

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Description of Service:

The Afterschoolers Club is a school age service owned and operated by the registered provider. It is based in Scoil na Mainistreach in Celbridge town. The service has a dedicated classroom in the school and the use of a large general-purpose hall.

The service is registered to accommodate up to 25 children from the age of 4 up to 12 years of age. On the day of the inspection, there were 10 children present.

The service is registered to operate from 7.45am to 9am and from 1.40pm to 6pm during the school's academic term.

The children have access to the schoolyard, basketball court and grassed playing pitch.

Staffing:

There are a total of three staff members employed in the service with an additional volunteer adult available. The registered provider works directly with the children. On the day of the inspection, there were two staff caring for ten children.

Additional Information:

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

Summary of Findings:

On inspection, the registered providers were found to be compliant in relation to the following:

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

On inspection, the registered providers were found to be non-compliant in:

- Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(2): Vetting disclosures.

Conclusion and follow-up actions: 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.

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) (c)(d) The inspector reviewed four staff files. Four Garda vetting disclosures were on file and documentation was available to determine that police vetting was not required for the staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Regulatory Requirement not met

- (1) (a)(b) There were no written validated references available for two staff members, however, it is acknowledged that there were three references available, one of which was validated.

(2)

Files available demonstrated that procedures specified in paragraph 1 had not been carried out prior to staff members being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)(a)(b)

The registered provider submitted the outstanding validated references required.

(2)

The registered provider stated that going forward new staff will not commence employment until all vetting disclosures have been received.

Summary of Findings

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

(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)

During the inspection, the registered providers ensured that appropriate staffing levels were maintained. At 2.30pm, eight children attending the service were supervised directly by two

adults and at 3.25pm ten children were supervised directly by one adult.

During the inspection, staff were observed to engage with children doing arts and crafts activities. Other staff sat with the children as they completed their homework.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service was insured from 28 March 2023 to 27 March 2024 for a maximum of 25 children.