

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019OY001SA
Name of School Age Service:	Cool for Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider:	Theresa Murrin
Address of School Age Service:	Monasterosis, Edenderry, Co Offaly.
Eircode:	R45 CK22

Date of Inspection:	26 September 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Not applicable	PM	25
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore Co Offaly
Inspection undertaken by:	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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

Description of Service:

Cool for Afterschool is located on the outskirts of Edenderry town in north Offaly. The service cares for children in the age range of 4 to 15 years and is open between the hours of 1.30 and 6.00pm. A breakfast club is also provided between the hours of 7.30 and 9.30am. The service has the use of two playrooms and a kitchen to prepare meals and snacks. Sanitary accommodation and a changing room for children are provided off both playrooms. The outdoor play area is located at the back of the service. An open roofed shelter, an area finished with smooth concrete and a grass surfaced area are both enclosed and provided for outdoor play.

Staffing:

Four adults staff the service. The registered provider works directly in the service.

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:

- 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 inspection.

Summary of Findings:

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

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

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.

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)

Two validated references were held on file in respect of each of the three staff members in the service. Three of the six references required were sourced from past employers. The remaining three references were secured from sources other than past employers. A Garda vetting was held on file in respect of all staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Police vetting was held on file for one staff member who had lived outside of the state for more than six consecutive months as an adult.

(2)

Records confirmed that vetting procedures were conducted prior to the appointment of staff to work in the 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)

Three staff members cared for a total of 25 children in attendance in the service on the day of inspection. At 4.25pm, 16 children had left the service and were signed out by a staff member. The remaining nine children were cared for by the three staff members in attendance. The inspector reviewed the children's attendance records and the staff roster for the week beginning 2 September 2024. Records confirmed that the maximum number of children in attendance was 31 with 3 staff members present.

(4)

On the day of inspection, the children were observed to be appropriately supervised by the three staff members present. A small group of children were facilitated to engage in home work on the quiet room in the service by a staff member. Children were observed to be supervised at mealtime in the service. Children were observed and assisted as they sat at tables to engage in arts and crafts activities, making jigsaws and colouring activities.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

(12)

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 30 children in daily attendance in a school age service. Insurance was valid from the 28 March 2024 to the 27 March 2025.