

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019TY017SA
Name of School Age Service:	Ollúna Óga Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider:	Michelle McGrath
Address of School Age Service:	Puckane National School Puckane, Nenagh, Tipperary
Eircode:	E45 DT27

Date of Inspection:	9 October 2024		
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	PM	17
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 R35K1W4
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).

Description of Service:

Ollúna Óga Afterschool is a school age service located in a rural primary school building in north Tipperary. The service cares for children in the age range 4 to 12 years. The service is operational between the hours of 1.40 and 5.40pm. A breakfast club is offered between the hours of 8.00 and 9.00am. Rooms in use in the service include a school age room and sanitary accommodation for both children and staff outside of the room. An enclosed pitch, all weather surfaced area and a play area with outdoor play equipment are available to the service after school hours.

Staffing:

The service is staffed by two adults. The registered provider is available to provide relief cover as required.

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, person in charge, and staff member 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(1)(a)(b)(c)(d): Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance;

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

- Regulation 8(2): Vetting disclosures;

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered provider submitted actions to correct and prevent the reoccurrence of the non-compliance identified under Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures. This has been accepted by the inspectorate and is deemed to meet the Regulatory requirement.

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)

There were two references held on file for the registered provider. Two validated references from past employers were held on file in respect of one staff member. A reference from a past employer and a reference from a reputable source were held on file in respect of a second staff member. A Garda vetting disclosure was held on file in respect of the three staff members working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Employment histories for staff members confirmed that none of the staff had lived outside of the State and required Police vetting.

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Regulatory Requirement not met

(2)

References were not validated prior to the appointment of one staff member to work in the service. Not ensuring all staff are fully vetted prior to allowing them access to children could pose a risk to the children in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(2)

Two validated references were submitted in respect of one staff member on the 10 October 2024. The registered provider advised in the response to the inspection report that all references for new staff will be validated prior to the commencement of the staff to work in the service.

Summary of Findings

The measures taken by the registered provider addressed the non-compliance found on inspection of 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)

Two staff members were caring for 17 children on arrival of the inspector. A review of the attendance record for the children on the day of inspection confirmed that all children were signed into the service which included arrival times. The inspector reviewed the attendance records for the children for the weeks of the 9 to 13 October 2024 and the week of the 23 to 27 September 2024. The maximum number of children present in the service during these weeks was recorded as 19 children on the 20 September 2024. Records confirmed that children were both signed in and out of the service daily. A review of the staff roster for both weeks confirmed that two staff members were rostered to work in the service daily between the hours of 1.30 and 5.40pm daily.

(4)

Children were observed to be supervised by the two staff members both in the school age room and the outdoor play area. Children were assisted with homework and observed by the staff while playing with construction toys, a wooden house and miniature animals indoors. The staff were observed to move to the different areas outdoors to watch over the children while outdoors playing.

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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 had insurance cover for a maximum of 22 children in daily attendance in a school age service. Insurance cover was valid from the 28 March 2024 to the 27 March 2025.