

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019TY028SA
Name of School Age Service:	Holly Tree Breakfast and Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider:	Siobhan Ryan Carr
Address of School Age Service:	Hollyford, Hollyford, Co. Tipperary
Eircode:	E34 DX01

Date of Inspection:	25 November 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Not applicable	PM	2
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 R35 K1W4
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).

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Description of Service:

Holly Tree Breakfast and Afterschool is a standalone school age service located in a rural primary school in south Tipperary. The service is operational for children in attendance in the school from 2.00 to 6.00pm. A breakfast club is provided between the hours of 8.00 and 9.00am. The service is located in the school resource room and cares for children in the age range 4 to 12 years. There is sanitary accommodation for both children and staff in the hallway close to the school age room. There is also direct access to the enclosed school yard from the school age room for outdoor play.

Staffing:

The service is staffed by two adults. The registered provider does not work directly in the service and 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 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)(2): Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(3)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance;

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The service was compliant with the regulations inspected under the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services)(Registration of School Age Services) Regulations 2018.

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)

Validated references from past employers were held on file in respect of both staff members.

A Garda vetting disclosure was held on file in respect of both staff members and the registered provider. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years

Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

A police vetting was held on file in respect of one staff member who had lived outside of the state for over six consecutive months as an adult.

(2)

Records confirmed that the necessary vetting procedures were conducted prior to the staff members taking up appointment 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.*
- (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

(1)(2)

One staff member cared for two children on arrival of the inspector at 3.15pm and for the duration of the inspection. Both children were signed into the service. Records of attendance for the children were reviewed for the week beginning 18 November 2024. Records confirmed that the maximum number of children in daily attendance was 7 for the breakfast club and 5 children for after school care. The staff roster confirmed that one staff member was present at all times in the service.

(3)

The service had two emergency contact persons. It was noted that one of the emergency contact persons, resided opposite the school premises.

(4)

The children were observed to engage in conversation with the staff member sitting at a table for homework and games and during a snack time having cereal and toast. The children were also

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observed to be supervised by the staff member while playing with bricks and while sitting on a soft floor mat in the room.

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 20 children in daily attendance in a breakfast and school age service. Insurance was valid from the 1 February 2024 to the 31 January 2025.