

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019WX004SA
Name of School Age Service:	SuperTroopers Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider:	Emma Leacy
Address of School Age Service:	Cushinstown NS, Cushinstown, Foulksmills, Co. Wexford
Eircode:	Y35 FF98

Dates of Inspection:	04 December 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	N/A	PM	16
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not Applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Primary Care Centre, Castle Park, Arklow, Co Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	L O' Connor
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:

SuperTroopers Afterschool is located in Cushinstown, a village on the outskirts of New Ross, Co Wexford. It is registered to cater for up to 22 children aged 4 to 12 years old and operates a morning club and afterschool service during term time only. The morning club operates from 8am – 9am daily. The afterschool service operates from 2pm to 5pm Monday to Thursday and from 2-3pm on a Friday.

The service operates from the grounds of Cushinstown National School. The children have access to one care room and the hall within the school building. The children are provided with an outdoor area on the school premises.

Staffing:

There are two adults employed within the service, including the registered provider. The registered provider works directly with the children.

On the day of inspection, there were two adults present 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, person in charge, and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Summary of Findings:

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

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

Conclusion and follow up actions:

This section will be completed on the Inspectorate on finalisation of the inspection report.

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)(2)

Documentation relating to two staff files was reviewed. Four validated references were available for two staff members. The required Garda vetting disclosures were available for the two adults. It was demonstrated that the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Police vetting was not required.

(2)

It was demonstrated that the required documentation was in place prior to the staff being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age 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 services 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)(3)(4)

The adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the inspection. On the day, there was two adults present with sixteen school age children in the service. Throughout the inspection, the children were appropriately supervised by the two adults.

The adults were observed by the inspector to work seamlessly together to ensure that the children were, at all times, appropriately supervised. The adults used various supervision methods throughout the inspection. The adults were observed to supervise the children by working together and remaining within a reasonable distance to the children. For example, at 3pm fourteen of the sixteen children aged 4- 7 years were going home. Between 2.40pm to 2.55pm, the two adults were observed to work collectively in supporting the children to use the zips on their coats and put on their bags, while the children who were ready were provided with the guidance by the two adults to go to an area for a story before they went.

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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 was insured for 22 children to attend at any one time. The policy was dated from 28 March 2024 to 27 March 2025.