

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020CC005SA
Name of School Age Service:	Dina's Den Breakfast & Afterschool Club
Name of Registered Provider:	Dusanka Valentic
Address of School Age Service:	Unit 19N, Bottely Court, Market Square, Mallow, Cork.
Eircode:	P51 YD42

Date of Inspection:	24 February 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	N/A	PM	14
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	N/A			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	2 nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick, V94 XT5F.
Inspection undertaken by:	S O'Brien & N O'Donoghue
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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:

Dina's Den Breakfast & Afterschool Club is a privately run school age service located in Mallow, Cork. The service caters for children aged between 4 and 12 years. The service operates from 7.00am to 9.00am and 1.30pm to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday. The service consists of one large care room, sanitary facilities and a kitchen area. The service has the use of a field owned by a local national school which is used as the services outdoor area. The registered provider is a multiple provider.

Staffing:

There are six staff employed in the service. The registered provider is based in the service. On the day of inspection, four staff members were present.

Additional Information:

On 24 February 2026, an Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider in relation to unsecure blind cords in the care room. On 25 February 2026, the registered provider submitted a response to the inspectorate which was deemed adequate. Further information can be found under Regulation Child Care Act 1992, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the children, registered provide and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Summary of Findings:

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

- Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures
- Regulation 9: Staffing levels
- Regulation 12: Insurance

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

- Child Care Act 1992, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered providers response and documented evidence was reviewed by the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements.

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) Six staff files were reviewed which included the registered providers file.
- (a) Seven of the references available were from a past employer and were validated.
- (b) Five of the references available were from another source and were validated.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all six staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting disclosures were available in respect of two staff members who had lived outside of a state for longer than six consecutive months.

(2) The procedures outlined above had been carried out prior to the staff members being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a school age child.

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) The registered provider ensured there was an adequate number of staff caring for the school age children for the duration of the inspection.
- (2) There were 14 children being cared for by 4 staff members; therefore, the service was adhering to the minimum adult to child ratios.
- (4) The staff were observed supervising the children at all times for the duration of the inspection. The staff carried out school collections by foot and by transport owned by the service.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured. The insurance policy commenced on 28 March 2025 and expired on 27 March 2026. The service also had insurance for vehicles used to transport children to and from the service to the local national schools. These policies commenced on 27 August 2025 and 15 November 2025 and expired on 26 August 2026 and 14 November 2026. The service also had insurance for the field that is used for outdoor play. The policy commenced on 28 March 2025 and expired on 27 March 2026.

Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

It shall be the duty of every person providing an early years service to take all reasonable measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending the service and to comply with regulations made by the Minister under this Part.

Regulatory Requirement Met

- The children were observed freely moving around the care room.
- The staff were observed supporting children with completing homework.
- The staff were observed chatting to the children in kind and respectful manner.
- The children were offered afternoon snack which consisted of toast, ham and cheese.
- The service had a water fountain available to the children to refill their individual water bottles.
- The service had various toys and equipment for the children to play with. The children were observed reading books and playing with plastic construction bricks.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. Blind cords were observed to be unsecured on the entrance door to the service and on a window. This posed a safety risk to the children. An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the provider on 24 February 2026. It is acknowledged when brought to the attention of

the registered provider, the blind cord on the entrance door was secured. On 25 February 2026, the registered provider submitted photographic evidence that the blind cord on the window had been secured. The registered provider response was deemed adequate and addresses the risk identified on inspection.

2. In the sanitary area, a can of aerosol air freshener was observed to be easily accessible to the children. This posed a safety risk to the children. It is acknowledged that when this was brought to the attention of the registered provider, the item was removed from the area.
3. In the kitchen area, cleaning products were observed in a cabinet that was easily accessible to the children. This posed a safety risk to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective action

1. The blinds have been secured. Photographic evidence of the blinds cords secured was submitted.
2. The aerosol can has been removed from the sanitary area and stored out of reach to the children. Photographic evidence was submitted.
3. The cleaning products were removed from under the sink and stored out of reach to the children. Photographic evidence was submitted.

Preventive action

1. Daily visual check list has been put in place.
2. Visual inspection of the setting will take place on a daily basis before the children arrive.
3. Staff on duty will ensure that the cleaning products are kept in the designated area out of reach to children.

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Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was reviewed by the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements.