

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020CC021SA
Name of School Age Service:	Club Spraoi Before and Afterschool Care
Name of Registered Provider:	Priscilla McCann
Address of School Age Service:	Rochestown Educate Together NS, Carrs Hill, Douglas, Cork
Eircode:	T12 A78N

Date of Inspection:	27 May 2025
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 74
Registration status:	Registered
Conditions (if applicable):	N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	2 nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick, V34 XT5F
Inspection undertaken by:	S O'Brien
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:

Club Spraoi Before and Afterschool Care is a privately owned school age childcare service based in Douglas, Co Cork. The service caters for children aged 4 to 12 years. The service operates a breakfast club from 07:15am to 08:30am and an afterschool club from 01:10pm to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday. The service operates from 3 care rooms based across 2 floors on the premises. The service also has access to an indoor hall and a large outdoor area to the rear of the building.

Staffing:

The service employs 17 staff members including the registered provider who is not based in the service. On the day of inspection, 11 staff members worked directly with the children.

Additional Information:

The inspection was carried out as a result of information received by the inspectorate.

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:

- a) caters for children under the age of 15 years enrolled in a school providing primary or post-primary education,
- b) 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
- c) 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 compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8: Vetting Disclosures
- Regulation 9: (1)(2)(4): Staffing levels
- Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service
- Regulation 12: Insurance
- Regulation 13: Complaints
- Child Care Act 1992, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

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

- Regulation 8: Vetting Disclosures

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered providers response and documented evidence submitted was reviewed by the inspectorate. The non compliances found on inspection have been adequately addressed.

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) Seventeen staff files were reviewed including the file of the registered provider.
- (a) Twenty-one of the references available were from a past employer and were validated.
- (b) Thirteen of the references available were from a reputable source and were validated.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 17 staff members. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes in respect of one staff member as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting disclosures were available for 15 of the staff members, who had lived outside of a state for longer than 6 consecutive months.

(2) The procedures outlined from (a) to (d) above were carried out prior to any staff member being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1)

(c) Garda vetting was available for one staff member. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

The registered provider stated in their response that a Garda vetting renewal application in respect of the one staff member was submitted on 04 June 2025. Documented evidence of the renewal application was submitted to the inspectorate for review. On 9 July 2025, the registered provider submitted evidence of a completed Garda vetting disclosure to the inspectorate for review.

Preventive Action

The registered provider stated in their response, while monitoring was carried out periodically, on the dates of vetting disclosures in order to identify any that were due for renewal, a more stringent measure has now been implemented to ensure that it is monitored more closely so that this does not happen again. A spreadsheet has now been created that contains in chronological order, the renewal due date for all garda vetting for existing staff, to highlight more effectively the upcoming renewals that are required. Documented evidence of the above was submitted to the inspectorate for review.

Summary of Findings

The documented evidence that was submitted to the inspectorate was reviewed and has met the regulatory requirements.

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 that adequate staffing levels were maintained during the inspection.
- (2) Seventy-four children were in attendance and supervised by 11 staff members, therefore the minimum adult to child ratios were being maintained during the inspection.
- (4) The inspector observed the staff supervising the children by sight and sound during the inspection. The staff were observed interacting with the children in the care rooms and outdoor area. The children were adequately supervised during a fire drill that took place in the service during the inspection. It was observed that the staff appropriately supervised the children when using the sanitary facilities.

Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service

A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that the policies and statements specified in Schedule 6 are in place for the service.

Regulatory Requirement Met

The following policies were reviewed:

- Complaints policy
- Managing Behaviour policy.
- Child Safeguarding procedures and Child Safeguarding statement.

The inspectors reviewed the above policies and were observed to contain the information required as per Regulation 10 and Schedule 6 of the regulations to support the adults in their practice.

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 for a maximum of 90 school age children at any one time. The insurance policy commenced on 28 March 2025 and expired on 27 March 2026.

Regulation 13: Complaints

- (1) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies—*
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

- (1) The registered provider ensured that the complaints policy for the service:
- (a) Outlined the procedure to be followed by a person when making a complaint in relation to the service.
 - (b) Outlined the manner in which the complaint will be dealt with.
 - (c) Outlined the procedures for keeping the complainant informed on how the complaint will be dealt with.

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

During the inspection, the inspector observed the health, safety and welfare of the children being supported by the following:

- The children were observed freely moving around the care rooms and outdoor area.
- The staff were observed speaking and interacting with the children in a respectful manner.
- The staff were observed to be aware of the individual needs of the children.
- The children were observed eating cereal, rice cakes with jam and milk.
- The children were observed taking part in art and craft activities.
- The children took part in a fire drill in the service and the staff were observed ensuring that all children were present at the assembly points using an attendance record sheet.
- The staff outlined to the inspector their knowledge of the services policies. For example, the staff were observed following the services Managing Behaviour policy. The staff were also aware of the Designated Liaison Person for the service and what procedures to follow if they had a child protection concern.