

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020FL011SA
Name of School Age Service:	School Kids Aloud
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Jade Singh
Address of School Age Service:	Pelletstown Educate Together National School, Ashtown Road, Rathborne, Co. Dublin.
Eircode:	D15 X63X

Date(s) of Inspection:	9 October 2024
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 104
Registration status:	Registered
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate 180-189 Lakeshore Drive Airside Business Park Swords Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	M. McDonnell
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:

School Kids Aloud, based in Pelletstown Educate Together National school Co Dublin is one of four services operated by the registered provider. The service caters for children aged 4 to 12 years old. The service is open Monday to Friday for a breakfast club from 7.30 to 8.30am and for afterschool from 1.10 to 7.00pm during term time. The service also operates from 7:30am to 7:00pm in school holidays. The service operates from five classrooms and the hall on the school grounds. An outdoor area and kitchen and sanitary facilities are also accessible on the site.

Staffing:

The registered provider does not work in the service. There are 16 staff members employed by the registered provider who work directly with the children. Thirteen of these staff members have been employed in the service since the last inspection on 26 January 2022.

Additional Information:

The inspection was a follow-up to an inspection completed on 26 January 2022.

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 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:

- Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(c)(d): Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance;
- Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

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

- Regulation 8(2): Vetting disclosures;

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered provider addressed the non-compliances identified on inspection in their corrective and preventive action plan and with the evidence provided.

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)

The staff files of the 13 staff members who had commenced employment since November 2022 were reviewed. There were 26 references available for the 13 adults from a previous employer or source other than a previous employer. These references were validated by the registered provider as required. Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all 16 adults working in the service. These Garda Vetting disclosures were dated within the last three years demonstrating compliance with the Renewal of Garda Vetting regulatory notice. The police vetting required for some staff members was available for review.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(2)

A review of the start dates for five staff members demonstrated that the registered provider had not ensured that all vetting procedures such as validated references and police vetting were in place before the staff members commenced employment as required by legislation.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(2) The registered provider submitted an updated process; following the interview stage documentation would be requested and obtained.

Summary of Findings

The registered provider addressed the non-compliances identified on inspection in their corrective and preventive action plan and with the evidence provided.

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)(4)

There were 10 staff members working with 104 children.

The children were observed to be appropriately supervised during the inspection. For example, smaller groups of children were provided with lunch in the hall and were supervised directly by staff. Following lunch children then had access to various classrooms where staff completed activities with them. These included Halloween activities, construction blocks, games and colouring.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service was insured to provide care for 132 children. The insurance was valid from 9 October 2024 to 27 March 2025.

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 inspectors observed the health, safety and welfare of children being supported by the following:

- A staff member discussed the various ways in which staff were supervised and supported. This included daily meetings before the children attended the service to prepare activities and provide suitable cover in each room. The staff members also described and confirmed the regular one-to-ones that took place and this was supported by the record of these meetings. The new staff members described the induction training they had received. There were induction records available and policy sign-off sheets to demonstrate staff had received training. This documented evidence of the meetings confirmed that the preventive actions taken by the registered provider following the previous inspection were in place. These were to support staff supported staff in working with the children effectively.