

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021CC007SA
Name of School Age Service:	Teach a hOige
Name of Registered Provider:	Brian Downes
Address of School Age Service:	Castle Heights, Liscarroll, Cork.
Eircode:	P51 TC59

Date of Inspection:	22 January 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	8	PM	17
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	2 nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick, V94 XT5F
Inspection undertaken by:	S O'Brien & F Collins
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:

Teach na hOige is a school age service based in Liscarroll, north county Cork. The service is registered to cater for children aged 4 to 12 years. The service operates from 7am to 8.45am and 1.30pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday during term time. The service operates from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday during non-term time. The service is also registered as a full day care early years service. The school age service has the use of one care room within the early years service. The service also has sanitary facilities for children and staff and a large outdoor area to the rear of the building.

Staffing:

There are thirty adults working in the service. The registered provider does not work in the service. The service was also facilitating four students on work placement.

Additional Information:

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

There was an Immediate Action Notice issued to the person in charge on the 22 January 2026 for Garda vetting as two adults that had access to the children did not have a Garda vetting disclosure available for review.

The registered provider submitted a response on the 23 January 2026, outlining how the risk was mitigated, which was accepted by the inspectors. The response outlined that a Garda vetting disclosure had been obtained in respect of one adult and an application had been made in respect of the second staff member. The response outlined that the second adult would not work in the service until Garda vetting had been obtained. Further information is available under Regulation 8.

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 inspectors wish 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 9: 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 was submitted and reviewed by the inspectorate and has addresses the non-compliances found on inspection. These will be reviewed on next inspection. The non-compliance found under regulation 8 (1)(d) remains outstanding.

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) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that eight adults had commenced in the service since the previous inspection. All eight files were assessed along with three additional files for the staff that were required to have updated Garda vetting disclosures.

(a) Of the 16 references required, 10 validated references were available from past employers.

(b) Of the 16 references required, 2 validated references were available from a reputable source.

(c) Eight Garda vetting disclosures were required and of these six were available on file. Three renewed Garda vetting disclosures were required and of these two were available on file.

(d) Police vetting was on file for one adult that had lived outside of a state for longer than six consecutive months.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1)

(a) One employer reference on file for an adult working in the service had not been validated by the registered provider prior to the adult commencing in the service.

(b) Three references from a reputable source had not been validated prior to the adults commencing in the service.

(c) Eight Garda vetting disclosures were required and of these two were not available on file. An immediate action notice was issued to the person in charge requiring immediate action to be taken to mitigate the risk to the children.

Three Garda vetting disclosures required renewal, however, one of these vetting disclosures was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

(d) The requirement for police vetting could not be assessed for two adults as a curriculum vitae was not available or was incomplete.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective Action

(1)

(a) All references have been validated for all staff including students. The service outlined that until all reference validations are completed, staff members and students will not be permitted to work within the service. Evidence of the required validation was submitted.

(b) All references will be validated prior to the commencement of employment for all staff. Evidence of the required validations were submitted.

(c) One staff member has been removed from the roster, and the service is waiting on the Garda vetting disclosure. A Garda vetting disclosure was submitted for two staff members.

(d) All curriculum vitae's have been reviewed and updated to meet the requirements of police vetting. On review it was determined that police vetting was not required.

Preventive Action

- (a) A staff member has been assigned to oversee all staff files and the onboarding of new staff. Designating one person to manage this process ensures clear accountability and helps prevent the risk of further non compliances.
- (b) A staff member has been assigned to oversee all staff files and the onboarding of new staff. Designating one person to manage this process ensures clear accountability and helps prevent the risk of further non compliances.
- (c) All vetting renewal dates will be documented on the staff files, which will be available for TUSLA inspection. This process will help ensure that vetting is renewed in a timely manner and prevent any lapses in compliance.
- (d) We have delegated the role to one person to ensure accountability. All records will be checked regularly.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was reviewed by the inspectorate. Evidence of an application for Garda vetting in respect of one staff member was reviewed however, a copy of the completed Garda vetting disclosure has not been submitted to the inspector to date. The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate upon receipt. The non-compliance in relation to regulation 8 (1)(d) remains out outstanding.

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) There was an adequate number of adults caring for the children in attendance on the day of inspection.
- (2) In the morning, the inspectors observed the adults carrying out school drop off to the local national school. There were eight school age children being cared for by two staff members. In the afternoon, 17 children were being cared for by 3 adults.
- (4) The adults were observed supervising the children in the care room and the outdoor, primarily by sight.

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

On the day of inspection, the following policy was reviewed:

- Complaints policy.

The inspector reviewed the policy, and it was observed to contain the information required as per Regulation 10 and Schedule 6 of the regulations.

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 01 September 2025 and expired on 31 August 2026. The service also had motor insurance for the transportation of the school age children to and from the service and the local national school. This policy commenced on the 03 October 2025 and expired on 02 October 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

- The adults were observed chatting to the children on arrival to the service after their day at school. The staff sat and completed homework with the children.
- The adults were observed respecting the children voices and opinions. The adults were also very aware of each child's needs and adapted activities and had materials of interests available to the children to support them to regulate their emotions.
- The children were observed to freely move around the care room and outdoor area. The children were observed playing card games and dress up clothes in the care room. The children were observed playing on the swings and slides in the outdoor area.