

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021GY038SA
Name of School Age Service:	Scoil Iosa Preschool and After School
Name of Registered Provider:	John Burke
Address of School Age Service:	Oranmore, Galway
Eircode:	H91 YWOX

Date of Inspection:	06/03/2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	NA	PM	32
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	K Folan
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

Description of Service:

Scoil Iosa Preschool and Afterschool is located in the village of Oranmore, Co Galway. The service is registered to provide school age care for children aged 4 to 12 years of age from 07:30-08:45 and 13:30-18:00 from Monday to Friday. The service operates out of portacabins on the grounds of a primary school. The premises consists of four separate playrooms with sanitary accommodation. On the day of the inspection, one room was in use. An outdoor area is available with a combination of a tarmacadam covered surface, a sports court and a grass area.

Staffing:

There are ten adults employed in the service. One adult provides administration support and two adults are available to provide cover in the event of staff absences.

On the day of the inspection six adults were working directly with the children, including the person in charge. The registered provider does not work in the service on a daily basis and attended to facilitate the inspection.

Additional Information:

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

An immediate action notice was issued to the service on 06 March 2026 as it was deemed there was a risk to children's safety. Please see section 58G.

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, registered provider, 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: Staffing Levels
- Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service: Complaints Policy
- Regulation 12: Insurance
- Regulation 13: Complaints

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

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

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The inspector reviewed the registered providers response, documented and photographic evidence that was submitted. 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) Ten staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection and the following information was available:
- (a) Fifteen written and validated references were available from past employers in respect of ten adults.
 - (b) Five written and validated references were available from reputable sources in respect of five adults.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for five adults who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

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 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)
The registered provider ensured that adequate staffing levels were maintained during the inspection.
- (2) On the afternoon of the inspection:
At 13:44, 32 children aged between 4 and 6 years old were supervised by 6 adults.
At 15:12, 29 children aged between 5 and 12 years old were supervised by 5 adults.
- (4) Children were adequately supervised by adults in the service during the afternoon activities and at snack time. In the outdoor area staff positioned themselves to ensure children were supervised by sight at all times.

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 policy was assessed and contained information to meet the regulatory requirement:

- Complaints policy

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service had adequate insurance in place for 100 children to attend a school age service and was valid from 28 March 2025 to 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.*
- (2) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that—*
- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the school age service, and*
 - (b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1)(a)(b)(c)

The complaints policy was available for review. The policy detailed the procedure of how to make a complaint and how the service would respond to the complaint. It outlined that the complainant would be kept informed of the complaint's procedure

(2)(a)(b)

The person in charge confirmed that no complaints had been received by the service to date.

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 in the service were observed speaking kindly to the children and engaging respectfully with them.
- The children appeared happy and content in the service and were familiar with the routine in the afternoon.
- The children's choice was respected in the service, the children chose an activity to engage in, the snack they preferred and to remain indoors or to play outdoors.
- The children had access to the outdoor environment which was a tarmacadam covered surface. A separate sports court was available and the children were observed playing a game of football.
- The children were served a snack in the service. On the day of inspection, the snack consisted of pears, toasted ham and cheese sandwiches or toast with butter and jam.
- There was one staff member trained in first aid available to the children.

Regulatory Requirement not met

Access points in the service were unsecured which resulted in an incident of risk to a child's safety.

An immediate action notice was issued to the service on 06 March 2026 due to the following outstanding risks to children's safety:

The service had unsecured access points leading to public paths and other areas of the school grounds in the following areas:

1. The gate leading into the service which was open on the inspector's arrival.
2. A section of the outdoor area was unsecured, posing a risk of a child accessing other areas of the school and a public path.
3. The person in charge advised that the external doors in the service were open during the hours of operation, posing a risk of unauthorised entry by an adult or the unsupervised exit of a child from the service.

The registered provider responded on 09 March 2026 with evidence of the access points secured.

4. The service did not have a risk assessment for the outdoor area, posing risks to the safety of the children.

5. The children can remain indoors or play outdoors in the service, however there is no risk mitigating measure in place to ensure the whereabouts of all children are known.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

1-3. The registered provider responded on 09 March 2026 with evidence of the access points secured.

4. A comprehensive written risk assessment of the outdoor area was completed by the Registered Provider and submitted to the Early Years inspectorate. The person in charge will conduct weekly audits of all completed outdoor checklists to ensure consistency and staff compliance.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

5. Headcounts are now carried out before times of transition in the service and a written record is kept. Staff have received training on carrying out headcounts and active supervision. The outdoor play policy has been updated to include the change. The person in charge will carry out weekly audits of records to ensure accurate records are being maintained.

Documentary evidence of the above measures was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary of Findings

The documented and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed by the inspector and has met the regulatory requirements.