

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021MN005SA
Name of School Age Service:	Newbliss Childcare Services
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Adrian Quigley
Address of School Age Service:	Guardhill Newbliss Co. Monaghan
Eircode:	H18 V272

Date(s) of Inspection:	25 September 2025
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 17
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:

Newbliss Childcare service is based in a purpose-built facility and provides care for children aged 4 to 12 years old. A breakfast club is in operation from 8.00 to 9.15am and an afterschool club from 2.00 to 5.30pm during term time. The children have access to two rooms, Little Acorns in the main building is mixed with preschool children, and the Cabin is for the older school age children only. The children have access to sanitary facilities and outdoor play areas onsite. There is also a registered preschool service.

Staffing:

The registered provider does not work in the service. The registered provider employs ten staff members. One staff member works in a supernumerary capacity as the person in charge, one is a cleaner and eight staff members work directly with the children.

Additional Information:

The inspection was triggered following receipt 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, 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: Vetting disclosures.
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels.
- Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service.
- Regulation 12: Insurance.
- Regulation 13(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(b)(3)(a)(b): Complaints.

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

- 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 actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their corrective and preventive action plan, have addressed the non-compliances identified on the inspection.

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.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

The inspector reviewed the staff files of the registered provider and ten staff members. There were two written references for the registered provider and two written and validated references available for each of the ten staff members from either a previous employer or source other than a previous employer. Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the eleven adults. These Garda Vetting disclosures were dated within the last three years demonstrating compliance with the Renewal of Garda Vetting regulatory notice. Documentation available demonstrated that police vetting was not required for seven staff members or the registered provider. The inspector was able to review the police vetting required for three staff members, which was translated as required.

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 3 staff members working with 17 children on the day of inspection.

The inspector observed appropriate supervision on the day of inspection. Children from the younger room were observed in the outdoor area. The staff members were spread out in this area and were observed to interact with the children's play and to react to children as required, for example reminding children to slow down when playing games. The older children were observed taking part in an outing to a local play area. The staff members were appropriately positioned to supervise the children as they walked to the playground. When in the playground the staff members were responsive to the children to ensure they played in a safe manner, for example reminding them of rules and stopping play as required.

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 service's behaviour management and complaints policy were reviewed. These documents contained required information as per Schedule 6 of the regulations to support staff in their practice.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service had insurance cover for a maximum attendance of 95 children in the service. Insurance cover was valid from the 28 March 2025 to the 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

The complaints policy detailed the procedure for making a complaint and how verbal and written complaints would be dealt with. The policy referenced how a complainant would be kept informed of the complaints procedure and specified timelines for responses.

The service had a record of a recent complaint and response to the complainant. This followed the service's complaints policy.

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:

- The staff members spoke to the inspector about a recent incident in the service. The inspector was able to review documents from prior to the incident in which daily checks, by a named staff member, was completed on the outdoor area. On the day of inspection, the inspector was able to review documents which examined the events surrounding the incident. The person in charge had in place a documented plan to examine and identify risks and complete an investigation as outlined in their accident, incident and injuries policy. The inspector observed some risk management strategies were in place which included making an area out of bounds to the children until the investigation concluded. The staff and children spoken with were aware of this restriction. The inspector was provided with information following the inspection on conclusion of the investigation. Further measures included checklists and team meetings for use of the area, a changed collection point for children and communication to parents.
- Staff members spoken with were aware of the procedures in relation to a first aid emergency and where first aid equipment was located. Documentation demonstrated that staff members were trained in paediatric first aid and First Aid responder training.

- A staff member discussed how the children were involved in developing the rules for the service. A display was available and demonstrated the children's involvement in developing the rules. The staff members discussed how circle time was also used to discuss rules and changes with the children. During the older children's outing to the local playground the children were also observed following the rules as discussed by the staff members.
- The staff members were observed interacting kindly with the children. On the inspector's arrival in the Little Acorns room the children were sitting on the floor with staff. Some were reading their own book whilst others were reading with a staff member. In the Cabin children were chatting with the staff about the plan for the day, which included the rules for the trip to the playground.

Regulatory Requirement not met

- (1) There was no written risk assessment for the outing to the local playground to ensure that all risks had been identified and managed to ensure the children's safety. The staff members did discuss risks and how they were managed with the inspector. However, as outlined in the service's outings policy, there was no written documentation available to ensure the risks were identified and consistently managed to ensure the children's safety.
- (2) A daily record of each staff members actual attendance was not being maintained. Whilst there was a staff roster available, there were no daily sign-in records available to confirm what staff were present, their start and finish times and times of breaks for the day of inspection and the days preceding the inspection. Staff attendance was being recorded retrospectively.
- (3) There was no risk assessment available for inspection in relation to a staff vetting document.
- (4) A risk of tripping was present in one of the outdoor areas, gaps between the safety mats were observed.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

- (1) The registered provider submitted a written risk assessment for the outing. As a preventive action they stated that there will be a review of the policy and procedures unless something happens in the meantime.
- (2) Staff are to complete a daily sign in sheet and are reminded to complete their hours.
- (3) A risk assessment was completed, and this has been added to the checklist for new staff.

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(4) The registered provider submitted a photograph of the mats that were fixed to eliminate a tripping hazard, and this has been included on a risk assessment for staff.

Summary of Findings

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider in their corrective and preventive action have addressed the non-compliances identified on inspection.