

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## School Age Services

|                                        |                                                            |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>               | TU2022DS009SA                                              |
| <b>Name of School Age Service:</b>     | Sherpa Kids Scoil Ide Clondalkin                           |
| <b>Name of Registered Provider(s):</b> | John Miles                                                 |
| <b>Address of School Age Service:</b>  | New Road<br>Brideswell Commons<br>Clondalkin<br>Co. Dublin |
| <b>Eircode:</b>                        | D22 ED72                                                   |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>                                   | 11 November 2024 |
| <b>Number of school age children present during inspection:</b> | PM 13            |
| <b>Registration status:</b>                                     | Registered       |
| <b>Conditions (if applicable):</b>                              | Not applicable   |

|                                                |                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate</b> | Early Years Inspectorate<br>180-189 Lakeshore Drive<br>Airside Business Park<br>Swords<br>Co Dublin |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>               | M. McDonnell                                                                                        |
| <b>Title:</b>                                  | 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:

Sherpa Kids Scoil Ide Clondalkin is located in a primary school in Co Dublin. The service operates from a ground-floor classroom and hall in the school and provides care to children aged 4 to 12 years old. A breakfast club is provided from 7.45 to 8.45am and an afterschool club is provided from 1.30 to 6.00pm. There is an outdoor area, kitchen and sanitary facilities available.

### Staffing:

The registered provider does not work in the service. There are three staff members employed by the registered provider who work directly with the children. There is also a regional manager available.

### Additional Information:

This inspection was a planned focused inspection of the service.

### 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: Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance;

### 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

The staff files of the four members were reviewed. There were eight written and validated references available for the four adults from a previous employer or source other than a previous employer. Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the four adults working in the service. The documentation reviewed demonstrated police vetting was available as required. These documents were in place before the staff members commenced employment as required by legislation.

## 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 2 staff members working with 13 children. Staff members supported children with their homework. They also made snack time a relaxed and calm experience as the children were given choices in the food they ate. Staff members also included children in setting the table and giving out equipment.

## 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 24 children. The insurance was valid from 15 August 2024 to 27 March 2025.