

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022WW006SA
Name of School Age Service:	Always Active Afterschool Club
Name of Registered Provider:	June Prior
Address of School Age Service:	Gaelscoil na clock Liath, Druids Glen Resort, Blacklion, Co Wicklow
Eircode:	A63AN22

Dates of Inspection:	28 November 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	n/a	PM	37
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not Applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Primary Care Centre, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	L O' Connor
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:

Always Active Afterschool Club is located in Greystones, Co Wicklow. The service is registered to cater for up to 48 children aged 4 to 15 years old and operates from 2.10pm to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. The service operates during term time only. It operates from the grounds of Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath and the children have access to three care rooms on the first floor of the school building.

The children are provided with an outdoor area on the school premises. The children have access to a basketball court, playground and grass area. The children have use of the school hall within the school.

Staffing:

There are seven adults employed within the service, including the registered provider. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. There is a student on work experience within the service on a weekly basis.

On the day of inspection, there were five adults present in the service, including the registered provider.

Additional Information:

The inspector conducted 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:

- 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 to be compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(c): Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance;

The registered provider was found to be non-compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8(1)(d)(2): Vetting disclosures.

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered provider submitted actions to address the non-compliances which were identified under Regulation 8: Vetting disclosure. The registered provider outlined the measures in place to ensure that the required measures are in place prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

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)

Documentation relating to eight files was reviewed. The required Garda vetting disclosures were in place. It was demonstrated that the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Sixteen validated references were available for review.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1) (d)

Police vetting was required for one adult, however the documentation was not available.

(2)

It was demonstrated that the required documentation was not in place prior to all adults and unpaid workers being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service. The procedures as required for the consideration of references and police vetting were not carried out prior to being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(1) (d)

The registered provider through the CAPA submission outlined that team member applied for police vetting on 06 December 2024 for the period that were travelling outside of Ireland, which was not covered by the Garda vetting that was completed as part of onboarding at Always Active Afterschool. The registered provider stated that they will continue to follow up on this issue and update the team members personnel file once received.

The registered provider submitted supporting documentation to demonstrate the application for the police vetting which was dated the 06 December 2024. The employee checklist was also submitted. The registered provider submitted the police vetting documentation for one adult.

(2)

The service developed an onboarding checklist that in addition to the Garda vetting process, the requirement for police vetting will be checked for all potential new team members. This will in turn feed into a formal compliance checklist for the afterschool to ensure that management can see at a glance a dashboard of onboarding activities that have been completed.

Summary of Findings

The registered provider submitted the required police vetting and the actions which were put into place in the service to address the non-compliances identified. The Inspectorate is assured that measures have been put into place for these processes to be carried out prior to any adult or unpaid worker being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service. The requirement for Regulation 8: Vetting disclosure have been met.

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)

The adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the inspection. On the day, there were four adults working directly with thirty-seven school age children. There was an adequate number of adults working with the children. During the inspection, there was one additional adult available to the two care rooms to provide support, when required.

Throughout the inspection, the children were appropriately supervised by the staff members. The staff members were observed to alternate their supervision strategies throughout the inspection. For example, at 2.30pm, the children in Room 2 were completing their homework. At this time, the staff members were sitting with the children at various tables. During snack time, the staff members were observed to supervise the children in both of the care rooms from a reasonable distance. This supported the social experience for the children with their peers, however, the adults remained close-by, should a child require support.

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Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement met

The service was insured for 48 children to attend at any one time. The policy was dated from 28 March 2024 to 27 March 2025.