

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022WX015SA
Name of School Age Service:	Court After-school club
Name of Registered Provider:	Louise Crowley
Address of School Age Service:	Court National School, Monamolin, Gorey, Co. Wexford
Eircode:	Y25 WN22

Dates of Inspection:	21 November 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	N/A	PM	13
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:

Court After-school club is located in Monamolin, Co Wexford. It is service is registered to cater for up to 24 school aged children aged 4 to 15 years old and operates from 2pm to 6pm Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year.

The service operates from the grounds of Court National School. The children have access to one care room located within the school. The children are provided with an outdoor area on the school premises which includes the school yard, grass area and a basketball court.

The registered provider operates three school age services within Co Wexford.

Staffing:

There are three adults employed within the service, including the registered provider. The registered provider works directly with the children.

On the day of inspection, there were three adults present in the service.

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.

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Summary of Findings:

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

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

Conclusion and follow up actions:

There are no follow up actions from this 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 Síochana 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 three staff files were reviewed. The required Garda vetting disclosures were available for the three staff members. 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. Six validated references were available from a previous employer, and police vetting was not required.

(2)

The registered provider demonstrated that the procedures were carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

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 three adults present with thirteen school age children in the service.

The children were appropriately supervised by the staff members during the inspection. At 3.30pm, there was one adult in the care room with seven children while the second adult was outside with six children. During this time, the adults were observed to monitor the children from a reasonable distance and altered supervision strategies as required. For example, four children within the care room were playing a card game. The adult overheard that the children required support regarding the rules of the game. The adult sat with the children, explained the rules and remained close-by while the children played the game. In the outdoor area, the adult was observed to position themselves within close proximity to the children. For example, at 3.40pm four of the children were playing football while three children were playing at the benches, and the adult was supervising the children by remaining close-by. However, when the children were taking part in a race using the markings on the school yard, the adult was observed to move with the group of children in the school yard and remained within close proximity.

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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 24 children to attend at any one time. The policy was dated from 28 March 2024 to 27 March 2025.