

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023KK003SA
Name of School Age Service:	Dunnamaggin After-School
Name of Registered Provider:	Ciara Lawton
Address of School Age Service:	Raheen, Dunnamaggin, Co. Kilkenny
Eircode:	R95 E299

Date of Inspection:	6 November 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Not applicable	PM	23
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore Co Offaly R35K1W4
Inspection undertaken by:	A Spain
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:

Dunnamaggin After-School is a school age service located in a primary school building in a rural village between Kilkenny and Waterford cities. The service cares for children in the age range 4 to 12 years. A breakfast club is operational between the hours of 8.00 and 9.10am for children in attendance in the school. A school age service is operational between 2.00 and 5.30pm and during school terms. Rooms in the service include the school hall, a playroom and a storeroom for toys off the playroom. A second playroom is available to the service which is accessed from the outdoor play area. Sanitary accommodation for children is available directly from the school hall and staff have the use of the staff sanitary accommodation in the building. The service can also avail of a tarmac playground, pitch and a shelter for outdoor play after school hours.

Staffing:

The service is staffed by three adults, including the registered provider. A relief person is also available as required.

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:

- 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 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 relation to:

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

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

- Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(d)(2): Vetting disclosures;

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The inspector reviewed the actions and evidence that the registered provider submitted. The non-compliance 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)(c)

A Garda vetting disclosure was held on file in respect of all four staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1)(a)(b)(d)

Validated references were not available for three staff members working in the service. It was acknowledged that references were held on file for the registered provider. Police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived outside of the state for over six

consecutive months as an adult.

(2)

All of the necessary vetting procedures were not conducted prior to the appointment of staff to work in the service in relation to securing and validating references.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)(a)(b)(d)(2)

The registered provider submitted validated references as secured for the three staff members subsequent to the inspection. The registered provider submitted email confirmation of an application to secure Police clearance for a staff member subsequent to the inspection. As a preventive measure, the registered provider indicated in the CAPA response to the inspection report that the staff recruitment policy has been reviewed and that no further staff will be employed until all the necessary vetting procedures are conducted.

Summary of Findings

(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)

The registered provider submitted actions to correct and prevent the reoccurrence of the non-compliances identified under Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures.

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)

Two staff members were caring for 9 children on arrival of the inspector at 3.00pm. The two staff members cared for a total 23 children after 3.10pm in the service. The inspector reviewed attendance records and the staff roster for the week of the 21 October 2024. Records confirmed that the maximum number of children in daily attendance was 27 children on the 24 October 2024. Three staff members were rostered as in attendance on that date. A review of attendance records for the breakfast club confirmed that a maximum of 17 children were in attendance on the same date with three staff members present.

On the day of inspection children's arrival times were observed to be recorded by staff members in sign in and out sheets. Parents were observed to both sign out and record children's departure times on collection from the service.

(4)

Children were observed to be greeted and supervised as they arrived from their school classrooms. Staff were observed to supervise the children appointed as room leaders to take plates to the tables set up for snacks at 3.10pm. Children were both served and interacted with by the two staff members present as they enjoyed crackers with jam and ham, scones and raisins, breadsticks and grapefruit segments. Staff moved between the hall, playroom and outdoor play area to supervise the children by both sight and sound.

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 of 30 children in daily attendance. Insurance cover was valid from the 31 August 2024 to the 30 August 2025.