

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023LK011SA
Name of School Age Service:	Cherryblossoms Feenagh
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Tina Dunstan
Address of School Age Service:	Feenagh Community Centre, Feenagh, Co. Limerick
Eircode:	V35 PP78

Date of Inspection:	13 May 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	N/A	PM	15

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	2 nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick, V94 XT5F
Inspection undertaken by:	S O'Brien
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).

Description of Service:	Cherryblossoms Feenagh is a privately operated school age care service located in the community centre in Feenagh, Limerick. The service caters for children aged 4 to 15 years. The service operates from 7am to 9am and from 2pm to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday. The service has the use of one
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care room, a kitchen area and a large hall. The service also has access to a green area to the side of the premises.

Staffing:

There are five staff members employed in the service. The registered provider is not based in the service. On the day of inspection, three staff members were present.

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 and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN0224	13/05/2026	Evidence of police vetting was not available for one staff member who had access to the children.
Status	The registered provider submitted corrective and preventative actions which were accepted and addresses the statutory notice.	
Improvement Notice IN0203	13/05/2026	Evidence of Garda vetting was not available for one staff member who has access to the children but was not present in the service on the day of inspection.
Status	The registered provider submitted corrective and preventative actions which were accepted and addresses the statutory notice.	

Summary of Findings:

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

- Regulation 8 (1)(a)(b): Vetting disclosures
- Regulation 9 (2): Staffing levels
- Regulation 11: Premises
- Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

The registered provider was found non-compliant under the following:

- Regulation 7: Notification of change of circumstance
- Regulation 8 (1)(c)(d): Vetting disclosures

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted to the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements. The non compliance found under regulation 7: notification of change of circumstance remains outstanding and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

Regulation 7: Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a school age service shall, subject to paragraph (2), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the school age service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C (2) of the Act or Regulation 6(2) or 6(3) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1) It was found that the designated person in charge was no longer employed in the service and the registered provider did not notify the agency of this change.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective action

A change of circumstance application has been submitted. Documented evidence of the application was submitted.

Preventive action

An annual check of the register will be carried out to ensure it reflects the correct information is in place.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted to the inspectorate. The non-compliance found under regulation 7(1) remains outstanding and will be reviewed on the next 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.*

(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) Five staff files were reviewed including the file of the registered provider.
- (a) Six of the references available were from a past employer and were validated.
- (b) Four of the references available were from another source and were validated.

Regulatory Requirement not met

- (1)
- (c) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN0203. It is acknowledged that Garda vetting disclosures were available for four staff members.
- (d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IN0224.
- (2) The procedures specified above were not carried out prior to the staff having access to the school age children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective action

(2) The appropriate vetting has been applied for, and a disclosure was submitted to the inspectorate in respect of the staff member.

Preventive action

(2) All historical staff sent a new timeline form to capture employment history any time spent outside of Ireland.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted to the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements.

Regulation 9: Staffing levels

(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.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(2) At 3.30pm, 15 children were being cared for by 3 staff members. Therefore, the minimum adult to child ratio was adhered to for the duration of the inspection.

Regulation 11: Premises

A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that-

(b) where no such space is provided, the school age children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor space.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(b) The children had access to an outdoor area that was not on the premises and was located to the rear of the premises.

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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

- One staff member held an in-date certificate in first aid and was available to the children in the event of medical attention being required.