

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023TY013SA
Name of School Age Service:	Ladybirds Gaelscoil
Name of Registered Provider:	Stephanie Kennedy
Address of School Age Service:	Gaelscoil Aonach Urmhumhan Nenagh Co. Tipperary
Eircode:	E45 AK02

Date of Inspection:	27 November 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Not applicable	PM	20
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).

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Description of Service:

Ladybirds Gaelscoil is a standalone school age service located on the grounds of a primary school in the room used during school hours as the school library. The service has toy storage presses in the room and sanitary accommodation for both children and staff in the hallway. A separate kitchen is available outside of the room for the breakfast club and to heat food provided after school hours by the service. An enclosed basketball court and pitch at the back of the school provides an area for outdoor play. A keypad is provided to secure access to the service after school hours.

Staffing:

The service is staffed by six staff members. The registered provider does not work directly 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:

- 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, 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 relation to:

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

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The service was compliant with the regulations inspected under the Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018.

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)(d)

Validated references from past employers or reputable sources were held on file in respect of the six staff members working in the service. A Garda vetting disclosure was held on file in respect of all staff members and the registered provider. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Curricula Vitae for the staff members confirmed that Police vetting was not required as none of the staff had lived outside of the state for over six consecutive months as adults.

(2)

Records confirmed that all vetting procedures were conducted prior to staff being allowed access to work in the 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)

Three staff members cared for 20 children on arrival of the inspector at 3.00pm. The three staff members cared for 13 children at 4.40pm. Records were maintained of the children's arrival times to the service and their departure times on collection. The inspector also reviewed both the children's attendance records and the staff roster for the week of the 25 November 2024. Attendance records confirmed that the maximum number of children in daily attendance was 10 children for the breakfast club on the 25 November 2024 with one staff member present. Records for the same week also confirmed that the maximum number of children in attendance after school, was 22 children at 1.30pm and 23 children at 2.30pm with three staff members present on the 26 November 2024.

(3)

The children were observed to be appropriately supervised in the playroom. Children were dispersed between tables and chairs in the room. Staff were observed to assist the children with homework, making snowmen with cotton wool and paint and colouring pictures. At 4.10pm, children were offered a snack comprising of cereal, milk, waffles and diluted fruit juice.

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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 had insurance cover for a maximum of 40 children in daily attendance in a breakfast club and afterschool service. Insurance cover was valid from the 28 March 2024 to the 27 March 2025.