

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024CW003SA
Name of School Age Service:	Scoil Mhuire Lourdes
Name of Registered Provider:	John Miles
Address of School Age Service:	Scoil Náisiúnta Mhuire Lourdes Mill Street Tullow Carlow
Eircode:	R93 Y960

Date of Inspection:	20 November 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Not applicable	PM	8
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 R35 K1W4
Inspection undertaken by:	A Spain
Title:	Early years inspector

Authority to Inspect

TÚSLA An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	Child Care Act 1991, Section 58 as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013 (No 40 of 2013). 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 QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.3 V3.0 23/09/2024 Service ID:	1 of 7
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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:

Scoil Mhuire Lourdes is a standalone school age service located in a primary school in Tullow town area. The service cares for children in the age range 4 to 12 years who are in attendance in the adjoining school. The service provides a breakfast club between the hours of 8.00 and 9.00am. Children attend the service afterschool between the hours of 1.40 and 6.00pm during school term. The service has the dedicated use of a room referred to as the nurture room and a main school age room. Both a rest area and provision to prepare and reheat snacks for the children are available in the nurture room. Sanitary accommodation is available to the children directly off the nurture room and to staff in the school. A storeroom is available to store toys and play equipment not in everyday use. An enclosed outdoor area outside of the service and on the school, grounds is available to the children after school hours.

Staffing:

The service is staffed by three adults. 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:

- 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, 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 found to be compliant with the regulations inspected under the Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 on the day of inspection. No further action is required.

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 were held on file in respect of the three staff members working in the service. A Garda vetting was available in respect of all staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Police vetting was not required as a review of staff Curricula Vitae confirmed that the staff had not lived outside of the state.

(2)

Records available to the inspector confirmed that the necessary vetting procedures were conducted prior to appointment of staff 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 eight children on arrival of the inspector at 3.20pm and for the duration of the inspection. Records reviewed for the week of the 4 November 2024 confirmed that the maximum number of children in daily attendance for the breakfast club was three children with one staff member present. Records for the week also confirmed that the maximum number of children present after school was 13 children with two staff members present.

(4)

Staff were observed to attend to the children and engage in conversation with the children during snack time comprising of homemade pizza and orange pieces. Staff were observed to paint children's nails on request and to engage with the children as they played a doctor and patient make believe game. Staff were also observed to provide a quiet area for children to do their homework under supervision.

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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 24 children in daily attendance in a breakfast club and school age service. Insurance was valid from the 12 August 2024 to the 27 March 2025.