

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>               | TU2024CW004SA                   |
| <b>Name of School Age Service:</b>     | Sherpa Kids Scoil Pádraig Naofa |
| <b>Name of Registered Provider(s):</b> | Jennifer Lee                    |
| <b>Address of School Age Service:</b>  | The Course, Tullow, Co. Carlow  |
| <b>Eircode:</b>                        | R93 C594                        |

|                                                                 |             |     |    |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----|----|---|
| <b>Date of Inspection:</b>                                      | 07 May 2026 |     |    |   |
| <b>Number of school age children present during inspection:</b> | AM          | n/a | PM | 3 |

|                                                |                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate</b> | Primary Care Centre, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow<br>Y14 AE10 |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>               | L O'Connor                                                        |
| <b>Title:</b>                                  | Early Years Inspector                                             |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <b>Authority to Inspect</b>                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 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:

Sherpa Kids Scoil Padraig Naofa is located in Tullow, Co Carlow. The service operates from the grounds of Scoil Padraig Naofa. The service has sole use of one care room which is in the school building. Sherpa Kids Scoil Padraig Naofa is registered to accommodate up to 24 children aged 4 to 12 years. It operates from 8am to 9:10am and 1:50pm to 6pm during term time. Outside of term time, the service operates from 8:30am to 5:30pm.

### Staffing:

The service employs two adults to work directly with the children. The registered provider does not work in the service.

There was one adult present with three children on the day.

### Additional Information:

The inspector carried out 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 and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

## Summary of Findings:

The inspector planned to examine Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures, Regulation 9: Staffing levels(2)(3), Regulation 11: Premises (1), Regulation 12: Insurance and Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

On inspection, the registered provider was found to be compliant the regulations which were assessed.

## Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered provider was compliant with the regulations which were assessed under 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) Three staff files were reviewed and the following was available;
- (a)(b) Six references were in place, and four were validated as required.
  - (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were in place for the three adults. 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.

(d) Through a review of documentation, it was determined that police vetting was not required.

(2)

The required documentation was in place prior to staff being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

### 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.*

*(3) Without prejudice to paragraph (1), a registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service singlehandedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance in operating the service to the person in charge is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge or the registered provider of the childminding service in the event of an emergency.*

### Regulatory Requirement Met

(2)(3)

The adult to child ratio was maintained during the inspection. There was one staff member working with three children aged 7 to 9 years. In discussion, the staff member advised that in the event of an emergency or if they required assistance, that a person within close proximity was available to attend the service.

## Regulation 11: Premises

*A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that-*  
*(a) an outdoor space to which the school age children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or*

### Regulatory Requirement Met

An outdoor area was available for the children which was located in the school grounds. The staff member explained that the children go outdoors each day. The children had access to secured area with grass, tarmac and a playground.

## 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

Through discussion with the staff member and a review of documentation, it was confirmed that a staff member was available to the children at all times with a first aid qualification.