

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024LK019SA
Name of School Age Service:	St. Nessans Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Noreen Allen
Address of School Age Service:	Baunacloka, Mungret, Co. Limerick
Eircode:	V94 CF9T

Date of Inspection:	06 May 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	N/A	PM	51

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	2 nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick, V94 XT5F
Inspection undertaken by:	S O'Brien & P Magner
Title:	Early Years Inspector & Inspection Registration Manager.

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:	St. Nessans Afterschool is a privately operated school age childcare service located in St. Nessans National School, Limerick. The service caters for children aged 4 to 15 years. The service operates from 1.30pm to 6.30pm,
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Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

	Monday to Friday, 48 weeks of the year. The service operates from 2 classrooms and a hall. The service also has access to a large field to the rear of the building.
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Staffing:	There are 12 staff employed in the service. The registered provider is not based in the service. On the day of inspection, there were seven staff members working directly with the children. The area manager arrived at the service to support the facilitation of the inspection.
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Additional Information:	This inspection was triggered by information received by the inspectorate.
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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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

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 inspectors wish 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 IAN 0221	06/05/2026	Evidence of Police vetting was not available for two staff members who had access to the children.
Status	The registered provider submitted corrective actions which were accepted and addressed the statutory notice. A preventive action was requested but not received. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.	
Immediate Action Notice IAN 0223	06/05/2026	Evidence of Garda vetting was not available for one staff member who had access to the children.
Status	The registered provider submitted corrective actions which were accepted and addressed the statutory notice. A preventive action was requested but not received. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.	
Improvement Notice IN 0201	06/05/2026	International Police vetting for one staff member was available however a certified translated copy was not available.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

Status	The registered provider submitted corrective actions which were accepted and addressed the statutory notice. A preventive action was requested but not received. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.
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Summary of Findings:

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

- Regulation 9: Staffing levels
- Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service
- Regulation 11: Premises
- Regulation 13: Complaints

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

- Regulation 7: Notification of change of circumstance
- Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures
- Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted to the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements. The noncompliance in relation to regulation 8(1)(d) and 58(g) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2023 remains outstanding.

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) On discussion with the staff 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 and approved. Evidence of the approval was submitted to the inspectorate.

Preventive action

A procedure has been put in place to ensure that the agency is notified promptly of any future changes to the designated person in charge. Management will monitor all staffing and governance changes regularly.

Summary of Findings

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

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 not met

(1)

(a)(b) It is acknowledged that 12 of the required 24 references for staff were available of which 10 had the required validations. However, 12 reference and 14 validations which were required for the staff employed in the service were not available.

(c) See statutory Notice in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN 0223 served.

(d) See statutory Notice in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN 0221 served.

(d) See statutory Notice in relation to Improvement Notice IAN 0201 served.

(2) The procedures specified above were not carried out prior to staff being allowed access to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective action

(1)

(a) Eight validated references from a past employer were submitted. Two reference validations were also submitted.

(b) Four references and validations from a source other than a past employer were submitted.

(2) the service has now completed all outstanding recruitment and vetting procedures for all staff members.

Preventive action

(1)

(a)(b) Management will use a staff file checklist and conduct regular audits of personnel files to ensure continued compliance.

(2) The registered provider has implemented a stricter recruitment and onboarding process to ensure that no staff member is permitted access to children until all required checks are completed and verified.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence were submitted to the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements. Evidence of an application for International Police Vetting was reviewed; however, a copy of the completed International Police vetting has not been submitted for the one staff member to the inspector to date. The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate upon receipt. The noncompliance in relation to regulation 8(1)(d) remains out outstanding.

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) The following adult to child ratios were observed and met the minimum adult to child ratios requirements:

- In the Junior and Senior infant room, there were 26 children being cared for by 4 staff members.
- In the 1st and 2nd classroom, there were 10 children being cared for by 1 staff member.
- In the hall, there were 15 children being cared for by 2 staff members.

Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service

A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that the policies and statements specified in Schedule 6 are in place for the service.

Regulatory Requirement Met

The following policies were reviewed:

- Complaints policy
- Managing behaviour policy

The above policies were observed to contain the relevant information required to support the staff in their care practices.

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

(a) There was a large field available located on the premises which was available to the children attending the service.

Regulation 13: Complaints

- (1) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies—
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.
- (2) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that—
- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the school age service, and
 - (b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall—
- (a) include the nature of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with, and
 - (b) be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.

Regulatory Requirement Met

- (1)
- (a) The policy outlined the procedure to be followed by a person making a complaint.
 - (b) the policy outlined how the complaint would be dealt with.
 - (c) The policy outlined how the person making the complaint would be kept informed of the manner in which the complaint is being dealt with.
- (2)
- (a) The service had a record of one complaint which was made in respect of the service.
 - (b) The record available was dealt with in line with the services complaints policy.
- (3) There was one record available for review.

- (a) The record included the nature of the complaint and how the complaint was dealt with.
- (b) The record was open to inspection by the inspector.

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 had an in-date certificate of first aid and was available to the children during the inspection in the event of first aid being required.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. Garda vetting was available for one staff member. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective action

A garda vetting application has been submitted in respect of the one staff member.

Preventive action

A Garda vetting tracking system has been implemented to monitor expiry and renewal dates for all staff disclosures.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence were submitted to the inspectorate. Evidence of an application for Garda vetting was reviewed; however, a copy of the completed Garda vetting has not been submitted for the one staff member to the inspector to date. The

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services



registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate upon receipt. The noncompliance in relation to regulation 58(g) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2023 remains out outstanding.