

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024MO006SA
Name of School Age Service:	An Scoil Beag @ Scoil Phádraig
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Mairead Hastings
Address of School Age Service:	Newport Road Westport Mayo
Eircode:	F28 VO23

Date of Inspection:	05/03/2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	NA	PM	45
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	K Folan
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:

An Scoil Beag @ Scoil Phádraig is a school age service in Westport, Co Mayo. The service is registered to provide care to children aged 4 to 12 years of age from 07:30-08:30 and 13:25-18:00, Monday to Friday. The service operates from a room in a primary school. In addition, the service has use of a large hall on the premises. Three separate outdoor areas are available

Staffing:

There are 13 adults employed in the service including the registered provider. Six adults work in the service on a daily basis, with the remaining staff providing cover in the event of staff absences.

Additional Information:

This inspection was carried out as a result of information received by the inspectorate.

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, registered provider, person in charge, and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Summary of Findings:

On Inspection, the registered provider was found compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8: Vetting Disclosures
- Regulation 9: Staffing Levels
- Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service: Complaints Policy
- Regulation 12: Insurance
- Regulation 13: Complaints
- Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

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) Thirteen staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection and the following information was available:

- (a) Twenty-two written and validated references were available from past employers in respect of ten adults.
- (b) Four written and validated references were available from reputable sources in respect of four adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for three adults who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

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)

The registered provider ensured that adequate staffing levels were maintained during the inspection.

(2)

On the afternoon of the inspection:

At 13:36, 34 children aged between 4 and 6 years old were supervised by 6 adults.

At 15:00, 45 children aged between 5 and 11 years old were supervised by 6 adults.

(4)

Children were adequately supervised by adults in the service during the afternoon activities. In the outdoor area staff positioned themselves to ensure children were supervised by sight at all times

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 policy was assessed and contained information to meet the regulatory requirement:

- Complaints policy

Regulation 12: Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the school age service is adequately insured.

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service had adequate insurance in place for 60 children to attend a school age service and was valid from 28 August 2025 to 27 March 2026.

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.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1)(a)(b)(c)

The complaints policy was available for review. The policy detailed the procedure of how to make a complaint and how the service would respond to the complaint. It outlined that the complainant would be kept informed of the complaint's procedure

(2)(a)(b)

The person in charge confirmed that no complaints had been received by the service to date.

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

- The entrance door into the service was secure.
- Staff were observed speaking to children in a kind and respectful way.
- Cleaning materials were stored out of children's reach.
- The children had access to three outdoor areas. The children were observed playing energetically outdoors.
- The children appeared happy in the service and were observed engaging in a range of activities such as table football, open ended play, skipping, dressing up and art activities. A rest area was available for the children who wished to relax after school.
- There were two adults trained in first aid available to the children.