

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2025FL005SA
Name of School Age Service:	Small World Afterschool Care Castaheany ETNS
Name of Registered Provider:	Bernadine Smith
Address of School Age Service:	Castaheany Educate Together School, Ongar Village, Ongar, Dublin 15.
Eircode:	D15 AE61

Date of Inspection:	12/05/2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	N/A	PM	56

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate, 7th Floor, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8 D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	L.A Webster
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:

Small World Afterschool Care is a standalone school age service operating within Castaheany Educate Together National School located in North Dublin and provides care and education to children aged 4-15 years. The service operates from 07:30am-08:30 am in the morning and 13:00pm-18:00pm in the afternoon. It is comprised of three large care rooms, namely the Junior room, Middle room, and Senior room.

Staffing:

The registered provider works within the service and employs seven staff members. On the day of inspection, there were seven adults present, including the registered provider, general manager, person in charge and four staff working directly with the children.

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, registered provider, general manager, 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:

- Regulation 8 Vetting disclosures.
- Regulation 9 Staffing levels.
- Regulation 11 (a) premises.

- 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

The inspector reviewed the files of the registered provider and seven staff members that are employed within the service. There were two written and validated references available for the registered provider and two written and validated references available for each of the seven staff members from either a previous employer or source other than a previous employer. Garda vetting disclosures were available for all seven staff members and the registered provider. These Garda Vetting disclosures available were dated within the last three years, demonstrating compliance with the Renewal of Garda Vetting regulatory notice. Documentation available demonstrated that police vetting was not required for three staff members. The inspector was able to review the police vetting required for the registered provider and four staff members who had lived outside the jurisdiction for six months or more as an adult. The registered provider ensured that the above documentation was attained prior to the adults being employed or having access to children.

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) There were seven adults working with fifty-six children across three care rooms on the day of inspection.
- (2) The adult to child ratio remained consistent throughout the inspection.
- (4) Appropriate supervision of children was maintained at all times throughout the inspection.

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.

Regulatory Requirement Met

- (a) A secure outdoor space was available toward the rear of the service. Children were observed using the outdoor space on the day of inspection.

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.

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Regulatory Requirement Met

The registered provider ensured that four staff held up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training and were immediately available to the children within the service.