

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019LM004SA
Name of School Age Service:	Hartley Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Martin Barnes
Address of School Age Service:	Hartley, Cloonsheebane, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
Eircode:	N41 YN70

Date of Inspection:	24/06/2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	NA	PM	6

Address of the 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:

Hartley Afterschool is a standalone school ag service located in Hartley, on the outskirts of Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim. The service is registered to provide care to school age children aged 4 to 12 years from 07:30- 09:20

and 13:30-18:00 from Monday to Friday during term time. The service operates out of the registered providers' dwelling house and comprises of four rooms which include a TV and dining room, a junior Room, A senior room and a playroom. A cloakroom for the children's belongings is located off the main hallway. Outdoor areas are available at the front, side and the back of the building. Sanitary accommodation for children and adults is available onsite.

Staffing:

Four adults, including the registered provider, are employed in the setting. Three adults work with the children on a daily basis. One adult is available to provider cover in the event of staff absences.

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, 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 9(2): Staffing levels
- Regulation 11: Premises
- Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

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

- Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures

Conclusion and follow up actions

The inspector reviewed the registered providers response, documented and photographic evidence that was submitted. The non- compliance found on inspection have been adequately addressed.

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

On the day of inspection, four staff files were reviewed, and the following information was available:

- (1)
 - (a) Two written references were available from past employers in respect of one adult.
 - (b) Six written references were available from reputable sources in respect of three adults.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Regulatory Requirement not met

- (1)(d) It could not be determined if police vetting was required due to the absence of employment records for four adults.
- (2) The above procedures were not carried prior to three adults being appointed in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

- (1)(d) Employment records for four adults were obtained and submitted to the inspectorate.
No international police vetting was required.
- (2) In future employment records will be kept up to date for all adults.

Summary of Findings

The documented and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed and has met the regulatory requirements.

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

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

(2)

On the afternoon of the inspection:

Three adults cared for six children aged 6 to 7 years of age.

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 to the back of the premises. One section contained swings, balance beams, monkey bars, a treehouse and a sheltered dining area. To the side and front of the premises, a natural garden area was available. On the day of the inspection, the children were observed playing outside.

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 not met

There was one adult trained in first aid available to the children.