

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021CC093SA
Name of School Age Service:	Sherpa Kids Scoil Mhuire Na Ngrast
Name of Registered Provider:	Jennifer Lee
Address of School Age Service:	Lackenacummeen, Belgooly, Co. Cork
Eircode:	P17 XT32

Date of Inspection:	08 June 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	N/A	PM	26

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	2 nd Floor, Estuary House, Estuary House, Limerick, V94 XT5F
Inspection undertaken by:	S O'Brien
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:	Sherpa Kids Scoil Mhuire Na Ngrast is a privately operated school age care service based in Scoil Mhuire na Ngrast National School, Belgooly, Cork. The service caters for children aged 4 to 13 years. The service operates from 8am to 9am and 1.50pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday. The service has
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	access to a large hall and three classrooms. The service also has access to a school yard for outdoor play. The registered provider operates multiple school age care services.
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Staffing:	There are six staff members employed in the service. The registered provider is not based in the service. On the day of inspection, five staff were present in the service.
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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.

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, 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(2): Staffing levels
- Regulation 11(a): Premises
- 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) Six staff files were reviewed.
 - (a) Six of the references available were from a previous employer and were validated.
 - (b) Six of the references available were from a source other than a previous employer and were validated.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all six staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting disclosures were available in respect of two staff members who had lived outside of Ireland for longer than six consecutive months.
- (2) The relevant procedures specified above were carried out prior to each staff member being assigned, appointed or allowed access to the school age children.

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, therefore the minimum adult to children ratios were adhered to. At 4.10pm, there were 26 children being cared for by three 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 policy was reviewed:

- Drop off and collection policy

The policy was observed to contain the required information to guide 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) The service has access to an outdoor area that was located on the premises. The children were observed spending time in the outdoor area 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.

Regulatory Requirement Met

- There were five staff members that held an in date certificate in first aid and was available to the children in the event of medication attention being required to be administered.