

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021MO019SA
Name of School Age Service:	Club Spraoi (Mayo)
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Lorraine Nester
Address of School Age Service:	Faiche An Aonaigh, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
Eircode:	F23 RC84

Date of Inspection:	23/06/2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	NA	PM	51

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:

Club Spraoi (Mayo) is a privately owned standalone school age service located on the grounds of Gaelscoil Raifteiri in the town of Castlebar, Co. Mayo. The service is registered to provide school age care for children

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aged 4 to 12 years from 13:30 to 17:30 from Monday to Friday during term time. The service operates out of three rooms, "Room 1", "Junior and Senior room" and "Room 2". There is an outdoor area to the back of the premises for the sole use of school-age children. The service also has use of the main school yard. Sanitary accommodation for children and adults is available onsite.

Staffing:

There are six adults employed in the service to work with the children, including the registered provider. On the day of the inspection, all six adults were present in the service.

Additional Information:

An immediate action notice was issued to the service in relation to staff vetting. Please see statutory notice section.

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.

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN 1543	23/06/2026	International Police Vetting was not available for one adult who required it.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider following service of the notice. The provider submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventive actions which were accepted by the inspectorate.	

Summary of Findings:

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

- Regulation 9(2): Staffing levels
- Regulation 11: Premises

The registered provider was found non-compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures
- Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The inspector reviewed the registered providers response, documented and photographic evidence that was submitted. The non- compliances found on inspection in relation to Regulation 8(1)(a)(b), and (2), have been adequately addressed. The noncompliance in relation to Regulation 8(1)(d) and 58(G) remains outstanding.

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

Staff files in respect of 6 adults were reviewed and the following information was available:

(1)(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under section 58 G of this report.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1)(a)(b)

1. Ten written references were available from past employers; however, nine references had no evidence of validation.
2. One written reference was available from a reputable source; however, this reference had no evidence of validation.
3. There was no reference on file for one adult.

(d)

See statutory notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN1543 served.

(2)

The above procedures were not carried out prior to five adults being appointed in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)(a)(b)

1 and 2. References have now been validated. In future all references will be validated prior to staff starting in the service.

3. Second reference obtained and validated for staff member.

(d)

International police vetting has been applied for and will be submitted to the inspectorate upon receipt. Evidence of application has been submitted to the inspectorate.

(2)

In future, references will be verified prior to staff members commencing work. Staff employment records will be checked for gaps and staff will be asked about foreign work before commencing employment for which police vetting will be requested.

Summary of Findings

(1)(a)(b)

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

(d)

1. Evidence of an application for one adult for International Police vetting was reviewed however; a copy of the complete Police vetting has not been submitted for one adult 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.

(2)

The documented and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed by the inspector 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:

At 13:55, five adults cared for 14 children aged 5 to 7 years of age.

At 15:06, six adults cared for 51 children aged 5 to 12 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,

Regulatory Requirement Met

(a) An outdoor area is available for at the back of "Room 1" and the "Junior and senior room". The main school yard at the front of the premises is available for the children to use. The children were observed playing outdoors in both areas on the day of the inspection.

Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013
<i>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.</i>
Regulatory Requirement Met
Four adults in the service were trained in First Aid and records demonstrated that one adult trained in first aid was available to the children during the operating hours of the service.
Regulatory Requirement not met
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
An application for Garda Vetting was made and evidence was submitted to the inspectorate.
Summary of Findings
Evidence of an application for one adult for Garda Vetting was reviewed however; a copy of the complete Garda vetting has not been submitted for one adult 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 58(G) remains out outstanding.