

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021WX045SA
Name of School Age Service:	Sunny Days Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider:	Helen Pegman, Nicola Lambert, Deborah Devereux.
Address of School Age Service:	St John Of God, The Faythe, Co Wexford.
Eircode:	Y35 YT38

Dates of Inspection:	11 November 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	N/A	PM	25
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not Applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Primary Care Centre, Castle Park, Arklow, Co Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	L O' Connor
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).

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Description of Service:

Sunny Days After school is located in The Faythe, Co Wexford. It is service is registered to cater for up to 36 children aged 4 to 15 years old and is registered to operate from 8am to 8.50am and 1.40pm to 5.40pm Monday to Friday during term time only. On the day of inspection, the breakfast club was not in operation.

The service operates from the grounds of a primary school and the children have access to one care room and the PE hall within the school building. The children are provided with an outdoor area on the school premises which includes the astro-turf pitch, playground and the school yard.

Staffing:

There are 10 adults employed within the service, including the registered providers. The registered providers do not work directly with the children.

On the day of inspection, there were 3 adults present in the service.

Additional Information:

The inspector conducted a planned focused inspection of the service.

A Change in Circumstance form was submitted to the registration team of the Inspectorate on 12 November 2024 which outlined that the breakfast club was not in operation.

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 to be compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8(1)(2): Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance.

Conclusion and follow up actions:

There are no follow up actions from this inspection.

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) (a)(b)(c)(d)

Documentation relating to ten staff files was reviewed. The required Garda vetting disclosures were available for the ten staff members. It was demonstrated that the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Twenty references were available, and the required validations were completed. Police vetting was available for review for one adult.

(2)

It was demonstrated that the required documentation was in place prior to all staff being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

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)(2)(4)

Throughout the inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working with the children. On the day, there was 3 adults present with 25 school age children in the service.

The supervision practices observed by the inspector demonstrated that the children were appropriately supervised at all times. The person in charge outlined to the inspector from 3pm, the routine of the service was that the older children would go to the PE hall to complete their homework, as it was a quieter space. And during this time, the younger children and the children who did not have homework had free play and could choose to remain indoors or go outdoors. Before the arrival of the older children at 3pm, the staff members were overheard to discuss which staff member would go where in the afternoon. At 3.10pm, one of the staff members accompanied 9 children to the PE hall for homework, one of the staff members was in the outdoor area with 9 children while one of the staff members remained indoors with 7 children. During this time, the children were observed from a reasonable distance and one-to-one support was provided when required.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement met

The service was insured for 48 children to attend at any one time. The policy was dated from 28 March 2024 to 27 March 2025.