

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022KK004SA
Name of School Age Service:	Galmoy Afterschools
Name of Registered Provider:	Elaine Dunne
Address of School Age Service:	Galmoy Community Hall Galmoy Kilkenny
Eircode:	E41 W940

Date of Inspection:	18 November 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Not applicable	PM	2
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore Co Offaly R35 K1W4
Inspection undertaken by:	A Spain
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:

Galmoy Afterschools is a school age service located in a community centre in the village of Galmoy, north Kilkenny. The service cares for children in the age range 4 to 15 years. The service is operation between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00pm for children in attendance in the nearby primary school during school terms. The school age room is located on the first floor and has a keypad security entrance. Sanitary accommodation for both children and the staff member are located on the ground floor of the community hall.

Staffing:

The service is staffed by one staff member. The registered provider does not work directly in the service.

Additional Information:

The inspector conducted a planned focused inspection of the service.

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:

- caters for children under the age of 15 years enrolled in a school providing primary or post-primary education,
- 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
- 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 and the person in charge 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 relation to:

- Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(2): Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(3)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance;

On the day of inspection, the registered provider was found to be non-compliant in relation to:

- 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 registered provider submitted actions to correct and prevent the reoccurrence of the non-compliance identified on inspection. This has been accepted by the inspector and is deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

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)(2)

Two validated references were held on file in respect of the staff member working in the service. A Garda vetting was held on file in respect of the staff member. Documented evidence confirmed that the staff member had not lived outside of the state for over six months as an adult and therefore did not require Police vetting. Records confirmed that the necessary vetting procedures were conducted prior to appointment of the staff member to work in the 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.*
- (3) Without prejudice to paragraph (1), a registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service singlehandedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance in operating the service to the person in charge is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge or the registered provider of the childminding service in the event of an emergency.*
- (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)

One staff member cared for two children for the duration of the inspection engaging in homework and art activities with the children.

(3)

The service had a record of two named relief staff members available to the service to provide assistance in the event of an emergency. The inspector made contact with one of the relief staff members to confirm availability within close proximity of the service if required, in the event of an emergency.

(4)

The staff member was observed to engage in relaxed conversation with the children and assist them in putting on their coats at collection time.

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Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 10 children in daily attendance. Insurance cover was valid from the 14 November 2024 to the 13 November 2025.

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

1. In the absence of both an attendance record for children in the service and a staff roster, the service could not evidence that adult: child ratios were maintained at all times to ensure the safety of children while present in the service.

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Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

1. In the response to the inspection report, the registered provider advised that an attendance record for children and a staff roster have been devised for the service. The registered provider also indicated that this will evidence that adult: child ratios are maintained at all times in the service. The completed children's attendance records and staff roster for the week ending 22 November 2024 were submitted as supporting evidence. As a preventive measure in the CAPA response, the registered provider indicated that staff will ensure that the children's attendance records and staff roster are completed on a daily basis to ensure adult: child ratios are maintained at all times in the service.

Summary of Findings

The service has adequately addressed the non-compliance identified on inspection and there are no follow-up actions required.