

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024DS007SA
Name of School Age Service:	Footprints Early Years Ltd
Name of Registered Provider:	Racheal Govan
Address of School Age Service:	Saint Finians Community Hall, Main Street Upper Newcastle, , Dublin 22, Co. Dublin
Eircode:	D22 Y5T7

Date of Inspection:	17/06/2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	N/A	PM	13

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	R. Duff
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:	Footprints Early Years Ltd is a school age service registered to provide school age care to children aged 4-12 years of age. A preschool service operates from the building during the morning. The service is located in Saint Finian's community building in the village of Newcastle in South
--------------------------------	--

Dublin. Two care rooms are provided; one on the ground floor and one on the first floor. The children also have access to a large hall during inclement weather. There is an enclosed outdoor space to the rear of the premises.

Staffing:

The school age service employs three adults with two additional staff members available to provide relief when needed. The registered provider does not work in the service. On the day of inspection, there were three adults working directly with the children.

Additional Information:

This inspection was a scheduled planned, focused inspection.

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 to be compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8 (1)(2) 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.

Conclusion and follow up actions:

This service was found to be fully compliant on the day of 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) The inspection included a review of the required documentation for seven adults directly employed in the service plus the registered provider. Garda vetting disclosures were assessed

for each of the eight adults. The following documentation was available;

(a)(b) Of the 14 written and validated references that were required, 13 were available from previous employers and 1 was available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for eight adults. Garda vetting disclosures from all adults were assessed to determine compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Garda vetting which was dated within the last three years was available for eight adults.

(d) Police vetting was available for two adults employed in the service who had lived outside the state for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(2) Documentation reviewed evidence that the procedures specified above under 8 (1)(a)(b)(c)(d) had been carried out prior to all adults commencing employment.

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) During the inspection, the person in charge ensured that appropriate staffing levels were maintained. The 13 children attending the service were supervised directly by 3 adults. The maximum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children was adhered to at all times.

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

The children have sole access to a fully enclosed garden at the back of the premises. The outdoor area is equipped with age-appropriate toys and equipment for school age children. On the day of inspection, the children were observed to use the garden from 4pm. Staff and children were observed to bring water bottles to the outdoor area.

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

The service provided evidence that an adult trained in First Aid was available at all times to the children attending the school age service. A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the service.