

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024OY004SA
Name of School Age Service:	M & A's Afterschool club @ Charleville Centre
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Sharon Moyles
Address of School Age Service:	Charleville Centre Church Road Tullamore Co Offaly
Eircode:	R35 H660

Date of Inspection:	22 May 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Not applicable	PM	4

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore Co Offaly R35K1W4
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:

M&A's Afterschool Club @ Charleville Centre is a standalone school service located in a community centre in Tullamore town. The service cares for children in the age range 4 to 15 years and is currently caring for children in the age range 4 to 12 years. The service is operational between the hours of 1.40 and 6.00pm. A breakfast club is offered between the hours of 8.00 and 9.15am. The service is operational between the hours of 9.00am and 6.00 pm during school holidays. Rooms in use by the service include a school age room "bluebell" with direct access from outdoors. Sanitary accommodation for children and staff is available in the hallway outside the playroom, and a secure storeroom is available for cleaning agents and supplies. An outdoor play area is provided at the side of the standalone community building for the use of the service. The service caters for children in attendance in three schools in Tullamore town.

Staffing:

The service is staffed by three staff members. An additional staff member is available in a management capacity to the service. 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:

- 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 service manager 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: Vetting disclosures;

Regulation 9(2): Staffing levels;

Regulation 11: Premises;

Child Care Act 2013, 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

The inspector reviewed the staff files for the three staff members working in the service, the manager and the registered provider.

(1)(a)(b)

Two written and validated references from past employers were held on file in respect of three staff members.

A written and validated reference from a past employer and a reputable source were held on file in respect of the remaining staff member. A written reference from a past employer and a written reference from a reputable source were also held on file in respect of the registered provider.

(c)

A Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána was held on file in respect of all staff and the registered provider. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew

Garda vetting every three years in respect of all staff members.

(d)

International police clearance was available for one staff member who had lived outside of the state for over six consecutive months as an adult.

(2)

Records held on file confirmed that the necessary vetting procedures were conducted prior to the appointment of staff to work directly with the children in attendance.

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.

(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.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(2)

The minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children was maintained on the day of inspection.

On the arrival of the inspector at 3.20pm, one staff member cared for four children in attendance in the service. At 4.45pm, the staff member cared for the three children remaining in the service.

The inspector reviewed the attendance records and the staff roster for the week beginning 18 May 2026 on the electronic communications application in use by the service.

Records confirmed that the maximum number of children in daily attendance for the week was 18 children on 20 May 2026 with three staff members present. It was noted that two staff members

were rostered in attendance for 19 and 21 May 2026 and three staff members were rostered on for 16 and 20 May 2026.

(3) The service is not operated single handedly but as evidenced on the inspector's arrival to the service when the service was being operated by 1 staff member, assistance was immediately available. On the day of inspection, the manager arrived at the service from a nearby service, after a ten-minute interval to assist with the inspection.

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

(11)(a)

An enclosed outdoor play area was provided at the side of the community centre for use of the school age service. The outdoor area was enclosed by the building walls on one gable end and timber fencing. A combination of high-level timber fencing and a high-level timber gate secured the outdoor area from the carpark and roadway outside the community building.

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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 three staff members working directly in the school age service had paediatric first aid training with expiry dates of 10 December 2026, 17 June 2027 and 17 February 2028, respectively.