

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019DS005SA
Name of School Age Service:	Four Plus In School Care Ltd
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Pauline Buggy
Address of School Age Service:	Holy Spirit Junior & Senior Schools, Limekiln Lane, Greenhills, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
Eircode:	D12 V880

Dates of Inspection:	12/08/2026 & 13/08/2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Day 1: N/A Day 2: 56	PM	Day 1: 52 Day 2: 56

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).

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Description of Service:

Four Plus In School Care Ltd is based in Holy Spirit junior and senior primary schools in Dublin 12. The service has the use of a dedicated room in both schools and the library in the junior school. The children have access to four school playgrounds and a green area for outdoor play at the rear of the school.

The service is registered to accommodate up to 80 children aged between 4 and 12 years of age. The service is registered to operate from 7.30am to 9am and 1.30pm to 6.30pm during school term and 7:30am- 6:00pm outside school term.

Staffing:

The school age service employs 17 adults. The registered provider works in the service but was not present on either day of inspection. On both days of inspection, there were 9 adults working directly with the children.

Additional Information:

This inspection was a scheduled planned, focused inspection.

A referral was made to Service Operating Outside Registration Status (SOORS). A child was observed in attendance that was not yet attending primary school. The deputy person in charge confirmed that the child was registered to attend the service but that had not yet started primary school. At the time of inspection attendance records demonstrated that child had attended the service for 26 days which is beyond the allowable settling in period of 10 days.

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 9(2): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 11(a): Premises.
- Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

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

- Regulation 8 (1)(2) Vetting disclosures

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their corrective and preventive action plan for Regulation 8 have adequately addressed the non-compliance identified on 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*
- (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 not met

The inspection included a review of the required documentation for eight adults employed in the service since the last inspection dated 11 November 2024. Garda vetting disclosures were assessed for each of the 17 adults. The following documentation was available;

(a)(b) Although it is acknowledged that 11 written and validated references were available for staff members, the validation process was not fully completed for 3 staff members. Written references were available however they had not been validated for 2 staff members prior to them commencing employment in the service. The references available for 1 staff member did not reflect their most recent employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for 17 staff members employed to work in the service. Garda vetting disclosures from all staff 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 all staff.

(2) Documentation reviewed evidence that the procedures specified above under 8 (1)(a)(b) had not been carried out prior to three adults commencing employment in the service.

- Written references had not been validated for 2 staff members prior to them commencing employed in the service. The references available for 1 staff member did not reflect their most recent employer.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider has stated that appropriate reference validations are now in place for staff members. Updated recruitment practices have been developed to ensure all documentation is in place in advance of a staff member commencing employment.

Summary of Findings

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. The regulation has been met. This regulation will be assessed on the next inspections.

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 both days of inspection, the person in charge ensured that appropriate staffing levels were maintained. On day one of inspection the 52 children attending the service were supervised directly by 9 adults and on day two the 56 children attending were supervised by 9 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, or

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service has direct access to four fully enclosed school yards outside of the primary schools' operational hours. The school yards are located all around the school buildings. On the day of inspection, the children were observed to use the school yard for outdoor sports games. Staff were observed to bring play equipment to the outdoor area to support children's play.

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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 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 easily accessible and conspicuous positions in the service.