

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020TY003SA
Name of School Age Service:	Cos Clubs
Name of Registered Provider:	Geraldine Quigley
Address of School Age Service:	St Marys GAA Grounds, Western Road, Clonmel, Co Tipperary
Eircode:	E91 X2H4

Date of Inspection:	02 July 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	88	PM	46

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 13 Market Square, Mallow, Co Cork, P51 DD5Y
Inspection undertaken by:	J Dennehy & S O' Brien
Title:	Inspection Registration Manager & 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:

Cos Clubs is a standalone school age service catering for children aged 4 to 15 years old. The service operates from a premises in St. Mary's GAA club. There is one large hall with four adjoining rooms for the children to use. There is also a kitchen, office, and storerooms. There are adult and children's sanitary facilities. The service has access to a partially covered

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outdoor area to the side of the building as well as access to a large outdoor area to the rear of the premises. The service operates from 5.30am to 7.30pm daily. The registered provider operates one other school age service in Tipperary.

Staffing:

There are 84 adults attached to the service. The registered provider is based in the service. On the day of inspection, there were 30 adults present.

Additional Information:

A referral was made to Service Operating Outside Registration Status (SOORS). Children were observed in attendance that were not yet attending primary school. The manager outlined that there were 30 children registered to attend the service that had not yet started primary school. At the time of inspection attendance records demonstrated that children had not attended the service 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:

- 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the children, manager, and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Summary of Findings:

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

- Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures
- Regulation 9: Staffing levels
- Regulation 11: Premises
- Regulation 12: Insurance

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

- Child Care Act 1992, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted to the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements. Outstanding evidence of Garda vetting and police vetting disclosures is required to be submitted to the inspectorate upon receipt.

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) Following a review of previous inspection findings and information available on inspection it was determined that 22 new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. A total of 22 files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for three staff members whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.
- (a) Of the 44 references required 21 were from previous employers with validations.
 - (b) Of the 44 references required 23 were from sources other than the previous employer with validations.

- (c) Garda vetting was on file for the 44 adults. Three adults, that required vetting to be renewed since the previous inspection did not have up to date Garda vetting on file. The manager confirmed that these staff members would not have access or contact with children until renewed Garda vetting disclosures were received. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Of the 44 adults, 4 were required to have police vetting. Three adults had the required translated police vetting on file. One adult was still awaiting police vetting. The manager confirmed that this staff member would not have access or contact with children until police vetting was received.
- (2) The procedures outlined in paragraph 1 were carried out prior adults being appointed, assigned or allowed access to children 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.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

- (1) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were present during the operation of the school age service. This was determined through review of the staff sign in sheet.
- (2) At 10.36am, there were 88 children being cared for by 28 staff members. At 4.24pm, there were 46 children being cared for by 30 staff members, therefore the minimum adult to child ratios were being adhered to.

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

(a) The children had access to a large playing field to the rear of the premises. The children also had access to a small outdoor area that was partially covered to the side of the premises. The children were offered access to an outdoor space throughout the day. Children were able to move between the indoor and outdoor spaces as they wished.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for the number of children in attendance in the service. The insurance policy commenced on 20 May 2026 and expired on 27 March 2027. The service had insurance for 21 motor vehicles that were used for the transportation of the children to and from the service. This insurance policy commenced on 17 September 2024 and expired on 16 September 2027. The service also had insurance cover for carrying out outings with children.

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

- Nine staff members held an in-date certificate in first aid and were available to the children.
- The children had the ability to move into different areas of the building as they wished. The children were observed to be engaged in their chosen activities. Staff also provided structured activities for the children such as “Simon Says” and “What time is it Mr Wolf?”.
- Warm and responsive interactions were observed between the adults and children. They were very attentive to the individuals needs of the children.
- The service was observed to be clean and regular cleaning checks were conducted in the children’s toilets.
- Children were observed to wash their hands on a regular basis such as prior to meals and when returning from outdoor play.
- The service conducted fire drills on a regular basis and through discussion with staff it was evident they were aware what to do in the event of a fire.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. During the inspection inspectors observed the procedures for children arriving at and departing from the service. At the time of observation staff were unable to accurately account for the number of children present. For example;
 - A total of 88 children were recorded as in attendance in the service at 2.27pm on the day of inspection. At 2.30pm all children assembled in the main hall for dinner and when inspectors completed a head count there were only 82 children in attendance.
 - A total of 50 children were recorded as in attendance in the service at 4.16pm on the day of inspection. At 4.24pm the inspectors requested that all children assemble in the hall to complete a head count and only 46 children were in attendance.

This posed a significant risk to the children in the event of a child going missing from the service or in the event of an emergency situation.
2. There were no servicing records available for review for the smoke alarms within the service. This posed a safety risk to the children and staff in the event of a fire occurring in the service.

3. Food was provided by the service, parents and guardians. Food provided by the service as the main meal was a choice of vegetable soup and bread, mashed potatoes and gravy or pasta with cheese and tomato ketchup. Staff members were observed adding large amounts of salt to food at the request of some of the children. As per healthy eating guidelines salt intake should be limited within recommended amounts. This posed a potential risk to the children's health.
4. A sample of 10 accident and incident report forms were reviewed from 23 May 2022 to 30 June 2026. Four of the accident and incident report forms did not have a parent or guardian signature, therefore it could not be determined if the parent or guardian of each child had been informed of the accident or incident. This posed a safety risk to the children.
5. In the play station room, trailing flexes were easily accessible to the children. This posed a risk of strangulation and a trip hazard to the children.
6. In the outdoor area, a portable basketball hoop had broken edges on the base which posed a safety risk to the children.
7. In the main hall, two light fittings were missing covers therefore the bulbs were exposed. This posed a safety risk to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective action

1. The service have organised children into groups by school. This way when the children are coming in/out it will be easier and faster to identify them by knowing what school they are in and they can be signed in/out accordingly.
2. The registered provider stated in their response that all smoke alarms will have to be updated. This is scheduled to take place in August when the service is closed.
3. The registered provider stated in her response that staff have reduced the level of salt to the recommended amounts for children. Staff are encouraging children to try have their dinner without salt also.
4. The service was unable to get the accident and incident forms signed as the children involved no longer attend the service.
5. The service added high shelves for the computer equipment and moved plug sockets up

higher so they are not accessible to the children.

6. The basketball hoop has been removed from the premises.
7. The light covers have been added to the lights in the hall.

Preventive action

1. The service now has two people in charge at the door aiding each other signing children in/out.
2. Smoke alarms have been scheduled to be checked on a yearly basis.
3. The kitchen and designated staff members are closely monitoring the use of salt with children. No child is allowed put their own salt on their dinner only staff.
4. The service will ensure that parents sign the accident and incident report on the day of the accident.
5. The service will ensure no flexes are hanging down from the shelf to prevent injury to children.
6. The service will monitor equipment and make sure maintenance is kept up to date and any dangerous items removed or fixed.
7. The service will monitor the facilities and make sure maintenance is kept up to date and any dangerous items removed or fixed.

Summary of Findings

The non-compliance under 58(G) point 2 remains outstanding as no evidence to date was received that smoke alarms were tested. In relation to all other non-compliances identified under Regulation 58(G) the registered providers response and documented evidence have met the regulatory requirements. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.