

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022CW001SA
Name of School Age Service:	Mol an Óige Afterschool club Ardattin
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Lorraine Wade
Address of School Age Service:	Ardattin Community Hall, Ardattin, Co. Carlow
Eircode:	R93 DX54

Date of Inspection:	08 July 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	17	PM	17

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Primary Care Centre, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow Y14 AE10
Inspection undertaken by:	L O'Connor
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

Description of Service:

Mol an Óige Afterschool club Ardattin is in a rural village in Co Carlow. The service caters for a maximum of 20 children aged 4 to 15 years. During term time, the service operates from 8am to 9am and from 12pm to 6pm. Outside of term time, the service is registered to operate from 9am to 4pm. On the day of inspection, the service was in operation from 10am to 2pm.

Mol an Óige Afterschool club Ardattin operates from a community hall. The children have access to the main room within the hall, and the adjoining sanitary areas.

Staffing:

There are three adults employed to work in the service. This includes the registered provider who works with the children.

On the day, there were two adults working with the children. A post-secondary school student was present in a voluntary capacity on the day of inspection.

Additional Information:

A referral was made to the fire officer on 09 July 2026 due to fire safety concerns.

The registered provider submitted a change in circumstance to the inspectorate on 11 August 2026. The service is now operating from Ardattin National School, Ardattin, Co. Carlow.

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, registered provider and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

Statutory Notices		
Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN 1366	08/07/2026	The absence of fire safety measures posed an immediate risk to the children. There were no smoke alarms present on the premises. Two of the three named fire exits were unopenable.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately following service of the notice and the registered provider submitted a written response with detailed actions which were accepted by the inspectorate. It is noted that works are ongoing with the fire safety measures and the registered provider has been requested to submit evidence of the works when completed.	

Summary of Findings:

The inspector planned to examine Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures, Regulation 9: Staffing levels, Regulation 11: Premises, and 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 compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8: Vetting disclosure (1)(c):
- Regulation 9(2): Staffing levels:
- Regulation 11: Premises(a):

On inspection, the registered provider was found to be non-compliant under:

- Regulation 8: Vetting disclosure(1)(a)(b)(2):
- Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Conclusion and follow up actions:

Based on the implementation of the actions submitted for Regulation 8: Vetting disclosure and Section 58(G), the requirement is deemed to be met. These regulations, alongside the actions submitted, will be assessed on the next 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) A total of three files were reviewed;

(c) Garda Vetting was available for the three adults. It was demonstrated that the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1)

(a)(b) On review of the three files, references were not available for any of the three adults.

It is noted that four references were submitted by the registered provider on the 23 July 2026 and evidence of validation was also submitted.

(d) The procedures for the consideration of police vetting were ineffective. As there was no information and/or documentation available, the inspector was unable to determine if police vetting was required for three adults.

(2) The required documentation was not in place prior to three staff being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

Validated references, employment history to include start dates in the service and photographic identification were not available in respect of the three adults working with the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)(a)(b)(d), (2)

As part of the services hiring protocol, the registered provider will always request the CV of any candidate. CVs will be reviewed, and an interview will take place, at which point the registered provider will request two letters of reference from previous employers. If the candidate does not have experience, the registered provider will request character references from two reputable sources. References will then be checked by call or email and verified before candidate will progress further from the interview stage to Garda Vetting.

The registered provider submitted a staff record checklist.

Summary of Findings

Based on the actions submitted by the registered provider, the requirement is deemed to be met for Regulation 8: Vetting disclosure. This regulation and the actions submitted will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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) The adult to child ratio was maintained during the inspection. There were two adults present with 17 children.

Regulation 11: Premises

A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that-
(b) where no such space is provided, the school age children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor space.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(b) The children had access to an outdoor area which was located off the premises. The registered provider outlined that the children use the outdoor area in the primary school premises which was located opposite the service.

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

An adult trained in first aid was, at all times, available to the children.

Regulatory Requirement not met

It was deemed that the registered provider did not take reasonable measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending the service as follows;

1. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN1366 served.
2. The registered provider did not ensure that reasonable measures were in place regarding fire safety. The following posed an increased risk of a delayed response in the event of an emergency evacuation.
 - a. Through discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that none of the fire extinguishers available in the service were not maintained annually.
 - b. The registered provider outlined that the service carry out regular fire drills, however, a record of fire drills were not available.
 - c. Information was not on display regarding the fire assembly point. The fire assembly point was not identified on the fire evacuation procedures and there was no fire assembly point signage outside.
 - d. A fire exit sign was blocked with a piece of equipment in the main hall. This may impede a prompt evacuation in the event of an emergency.
3. A constant supply of warm water was not available within the service which posed an increased infection control risk. Through discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that warm water was not available in the service during warmer weather as it was linked to the central heating system within the building.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

1. Please see the Statutory Notice section.
2. The registered provider stated that the service has since moved to the primary school located across the road. They outlined that the relevant fire safety measures including signage and fire assembly point is in place. The registered provider outlined that monthly reminders are set to carry out fire drill and that a record will be maintained. They stated that they intend to complete a fire safety course. A receipt for a fire safety course was submitted to the inspectorate.
3. The registered provider stated that the school has everything up to the standards required.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services



Summary of Findings

The registered provider submitted actions which are deemed to address the findings of the inspection. based on the implementation of these actions, the requirement is considered to be met. Section 58(G) will be reviewed on the next inspection.