

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2025WX003SA
Name of School Age Service:	Wise Owls Afterschool Ballindaggin
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Amanda Dunne
Address of School Age Service:	Ballindaggin Community Hall, Ballindaggin, Co. Wexford
Eircode:	Y21 D263

Date of Inspection:	28 May 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	n/a	PM	18

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).

Description of Service:	The service is located in Ballindaggin, a village on the outskirts of Enniscorthy, Co Wexford. It operates from Ballindaggin community hall which is a multi-use premises. The children have access to two rooms, the hall and a side room adjoining the hall. Wise Owls Afterschool Ballindaggin caters for up to 60 school-age children aged 4 to 15 years, and it operates during term time only from 8am to 9am and from 1.30pm to 6pm.
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Staffing:

The service employs a total of five adults, including the registered provider.
On the day of inspection, there were three adults working directly with the children.

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, person in charge, and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

Statutory Notices		
Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN1447	28/05/2026	The children were not adequately supervised by staff members while using the girl's sanitary facilities. Children were observed to leave the hall unnoticed to go to the sanitary area. The sanitary area was in a hallway which had a fire exit door which could be easily opened by a child. The staff members were not observed to adjust their supervision strategies to include headcounts of children going to and/from the sanitary area or supervise within a close proximity.
Status	The registered provider submitted corrective and preventive actions which were accepted and addressed the statutory notice.	
Improvement Notice IN1446	28/05/2026	Emergency medication for a child with a diagnosed medical condition was not available in the service.
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.	

Summary of Findings:

The inspector planned to examine Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures, Regulation 9: Staffing levels, Regulation 11: Premises, Regulation 12: Insurance, 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(1)(2): Vetting disclosures
- Regulation 9(1)(2): Staffing levels:
- Regulation 11: Premises(a).

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

- Regulation 9(4): Staffing levels:
- Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered provider submitted actions and supporting documentation to demonstrate the measures implemented following this inspection. Based on the implementation of these actions, it is deemed that the requirement has been met for Section 58(G) and it 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)
- In total, the files for five adults were reviewed, and the following was noted:
- (a)(b) Each adult had two references from a previous employer or a reputable source. Each of the references were validated.
 - (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the five 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.
 - (d) Through a review of documentation, it was determined that police vetting was required for one adult. The required document was available and translated.

Regulatory Requirement not met

- (2) The registered provider did not carry out the required procedures regarding police vetting prior to one staff member working directly with the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

- (2) All staff files have been reviewed to ensure they contain the required Garda Vetting or police vetting disclosures, references, identification and supporting documentation. No staff

member will commence employment or have direct contact with children until all required Garda Vetting and/or police vetting disclosures have been received, verified and recorded. A pre-employment compliance checklist has been introduced, and management will complete quarterly audits of staff files and maintain a vetting renewal register to ensure ongoing compliance.

Supporting documentation was submitted to demonstrate the measures in place.

Summary of Findings

The requirement has been met for Regulation 8: Vetting disclosure (2) and it will be assessed 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

(4) A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that the school age children attending the service are appropriately supervised at all times.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(2)

The adult to child ratio was maintained and there was an adequate number of adults working with the children throughout the inspection. On arrival to the service, there were 18 children present with three adults.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(4) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN1447 served.

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*
- (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 space by using a public space which was located opposite the service. The staff member explained that the children go outdoors every day to play. During the inspection, a number of children were overheard to share their enjoyment of playing outdoors the day previous, and they were overheard asking what time they were going to the green on the day of inspection.

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

Through a review of documents, including staff rosters it was confirmed that an adult trained in first aid was, at all times, available to the children.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN1446 served.
2. The following was observed in the two sanitary areas which were available for the children:
 - a. There was a strong odour from the urinals in the boy's sanitary area.
 - b. Hazardous items were not stored appropriately. Within the girls' and boys' sanitary area, there was a cleaning agent within reach of the children. A staff member was made aware at 2.57pm and removed them.
 - c. Two of the four taps available in both of the sanitary areas were not working. The water in the working taps was cold. Defective taps may discourage children from

washing their hands and cold water does not provide a pleasant experience for children to wash their hands.

- d. Two of the three toilets did not have toilet paper available.
- e. There was no means for children to dry their hands. In the girls' and boys' sanitary areas, there was no paper towel. The hand dryer in the boy's sanitary area did not work.
- f. The two sanitary areas were untidy and required the attention of a staff member. At 2.45pm, there was toilet paper on the floor of the girl's and boys sanitary area. In the boy's sanitary area, it was also within the sink.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

2. The following actions were submitted by the registered provider through the CAPA process;
 - a. The boys' sanitary area was deep cleaned immediately, including the urinals and surrounding surfaces. The cause of the odour was investigated, and a cleaning schedule was reviewed to ensure appropriate hygiene standards are maintained. Enhanced cleaning procedures have been implemented, with sanitary areas checked and cleaned at regular intervals throughout each session. Staff complete and record routine toilet inspections to ensure cleanliness and any maintenance issues are identified and addressed promptly.
 - b. The cleaning product was removed immediately upon being identified and relocated to an area inaccessible to children. All cleaning products and hazardous substances were checked to ensure they were stored securely. Staff have been reminded of the safe storage requirements for hazardous substances. Daily environmental safety checks are completed before children arrive, and routine supervision checks throughout the day ensure all hazardous materials remain securely stored at all times.
 - c. The registered provider contacted the building management on 22 July 2026 and confirmed that works to include a hot water supply to the sanitary areas is scheduled to be completed by the end of August, before the school service returns. Going

forward, any defects identified will be reported and repaired without delay, and regular checks will ensure that an adequate supply of running water and fully functioning handwashing facilities is maintained at all times.

- d. Toilet paper was replenished immediately in all toilet cubicles. All sanitary facilities were checked to ensure an adequate supply of consumables was available. Staff now complete scheduled checks of all sanitary facilities throughout each session to ensure toilet paper is fully stocked. A daily checklist has been introduced, and replacement supplies are maintained on site to ensure they are readily available at all times.
- e. Paper towels were provided immediately in both sanitary areas. The faulty hand dryer was reported for repair and alternative hand-drying facilities were made available until repairs are completed. Daily checks now include confirming that hand-drying facilities are adequately stocked. Any faults are reported immediately and alternative hand-drying methods will be provided without delay to ensure effective hand hygiene.
- f. Both sanitary areas were cleaned immediately, including removing toilet paper from the floors and sink. The areas were inspected to ensure they were clean, hygienic and safe for children's use. Enhanced cleaning and monitoring procedures have been introduced. Staff carry out and record regular inspections of sanitary areas throughout each session, with immediate cleaning undertaken where required to maintain a clean, hygienic and welcoming environment for children.

Summary of Findings

The requirement has been met for Section 58(G) of the Child Care Act 1991 as amended and it will be assessed on the next inspection.