

Statement of Purpose and Function

Name of Setting: Múin Blarney After School

(Blarney Múin After School)

Address: Cluain Ard, Monacnapa, Blarney, Co Cork

Registered Provider: Kate Gaffney

Person in Charge: Sylvia Fahy

Contact Numbers for Múin Blarney After School:

-Kate Gaffney: 087-7933505

-Sylvia Fahy – 086-3207284

Email Address: muinblarney@gmail.com

Service Type: School Age Service, Operates Part-Time (after school hours)

Age Range: 4 years to 14 years

Capacity:22

Statement of Purpose and Function

This Policy is available to all parents/guardians and caregivers upon registration. This policy will be reviewed, updated April 2023 and once updated, all parents/guardians and caregivers of children attending the service are given the updated version.

Definition of a School Age Service:

A School Age Childcare Service takes responsibility for children when they are not in the school setting, i.e., before school, after school and during school holidays. A School Age Childcare Service should operate based on an agreement between parents/carers and staff with ongoing structured links with local schools.

The purpose and function of our after-school service is to provide a quality care service for parents in the community either working or back to college etc who need an extra facility of care for their children . We offer care after school hours; we do not offer care before school hours start.

We have two classrooms in our service which cater for 22 children in total in accordance with adult to child ratio (1:12) and we have two experienced after school supervisors designated for when we are over (1:12) ratio.

Staff are managed by a level 8 qualified Practitioner

The age range that Múin After School service facilitates for is 4yrs - 14 yrs old. Múin After School service provides care for school aged children from 1:30 to 6:00pm. The number of children we can facilitate will be in conjunction with Tusla's guidelines regarding adult to child ratio for school age children. The Adult to child ratio is strictly 1 adult to 12 children under the 2018 Regulations. The ratio is 1:12.

The number of rooms is not determined by regulations presently. However, rooms should not be overcrowded for safety reasons. It is the same ratio for children of different school age groups and different ages. Ratios for school aged children will be abided by (see ratio table below)

Ratio of early years children allowed in centre-based services

Centre-based services must ensure there is always a minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 school age children.

Ratios of early years children allowed in childminding services

There is a limit on the maximum number of children who can attend a childminding service at the same time.

Childminding services caring for both pre-school and school age children, must adhere to strict ratios that apply to children who are in care **at the same time**.

Number of children that may be cared for in a childminding service:

Number of pre-school children being cared for	Maximum number of school aged children
0	12
1	10
2	7
3	5
4	2
5	1

Number of children using the service

We currently have 16 families on the waiting list who would like to avail of the after-school service once we are registered with Tusla. We aim to have a capacity of 22 children once we are established.

Admissions Policy

The After School is open to all families in the community and surrounding areas. Once registration forms are completed and submitted and a viewing has taken place which includes the child/children, parent/guardian, staff and manager then a deposit is paid to secure a place before the requested start date. We ask parents/guardians to offer as much information regarding child's interests and personalities so that we can support their transition into the After School.

*We adhere to General Data Protection Regulations and our own Data Protection policy.

We are dedicated to inclusive practice, and we have registered with NCS (National Childcare Scheme). This scheme offers parents the chance to avail of child-care subsidies. Parents register their details online to find out their entitlements and then bring their 'chick' number to the service to avail of the subsidy (all entitlements are different and important information regarding registering for NCS can be found on this website: <https://ncs.gov.ie/en/>)

*Please Note the subsidy is not influenced in any way by the after-school service, the service cannot change or amend the amount granted, it is based on all information given by parents/guardians or caregivers when registering with NCS.

Description of our Setting

Múin After School is a school aged service, we are located in a newly purpose-built Montessori School Building with two classrooms. The building is in a large secure area of a new housing estate in Blarney. We are a privately run service. This service is aimed at families who have additional after school child-care needs due to work commitments etc.

Múin After School is open 41 weeks out of the year and after school opening hours are 1:30 to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday. We are acting as a part time service.

We will close on bank holidays and public holidays.

Objective of the setting

The ethos of After School is to provide a safe home from home space where children can unwind and feel secure and be safe to relax and have fun. Muin After School is not curriculum based and instead we focus on communication, capacity building and the development of soft skills. Our service is a child centred service and embraces philosophies of empowerment and respect when working with all children and young people. We work under the pillars of the "Voice" model of participation in line with Government strategy* and staff collaborate with children and their views are actively sought.

Homework time is an important aspect of each day in afterschool, we endeavour to create an atmosphere which allows the children to focus and concentrate. Children are facilitated to begin their homework and encouraged to complete it with some supervision. As younger children require individual input and After School can be busy, we would advise parents to check their child's homework each evening.

We have a huge array of age-appropriate games, Lego, puzzles and art and crafts for children up to 14 years old. We also have a spacious indoor area for riding bicycles and scooters, playing group games and a secure, supervised outdoor area with sand, wood chips and equipment for messy play. We also practice yoga, meditation and movement sessions

After School Schedule

This schedule has been compiled as a guide for our After School practitioners. We encourage participative decision making and autonomy in our After School family which means that each day has the potential to evolve organically in line with the needs of everyone involved.

MONDAY	1.30 Settle in Check in chat Change Clothes Homework	2.15 Lunch Free Play	3.00 Homework for Older students. Quiet Time i.e., Board Games/Lego Puzzles for others	3.30 Physical Group Activity or Art and Craft	4.15 Snack 4.30 Participative Decision Making for the week's activities	4.45 Yoga And Move It	5.15 Free Play and Tidy Up
TUESDAY	1.30 Settle in Check in chat Change Clothes Homework	2.15 Lunch Free Play	3.00 Homework for Older students. Quiet Time for others i.e., Board Games/Lego Puzzles	3.30 Gym for games	4.15 Snack 4.30 Thought Board	4.45 Book Corner/ Story Time	5.15 Free Play and Tidy Up
WEDNESDAY	1.30 Settle in Check in chat Change Clothes Homework	2.15 Lunch Free Play	3.00 Homework for Older students. Quiet Time for others i.e., Board Games/Lego Puzzles	3.30 Group music and movement or Art and Craft	4.15 Snack 4.30 Staff facilitate Participative Decision Making for our After School	4.45 Circle Time Group games to develop soft skills, creative thinking	5.15 Free Play and Tidy Up
THURSDAY	1.30 Settle in Check in chat Change Clothes Homework	2.15 Lunch Free Play	3.00 Homework for Older students. Quiet Time for others i.e., Board Games/LegoPuzzles	3.30 Hall for games Or Art and Craft	4.15 Participation Work Snack Facilitated Conversation Prompted with starter topics	4.45 Yoga and Move It	5.15 Free Play and Tidy Up
FRIDAY	1.30 Settle in Check in chat Change Clothes	2.15 Lunch Free Play	2.45 Quiet Time i.e., Board Games/LegoPuzzles	3.30 – 5.00 Movie Friday with Snack CHOICE Art running at same time		5.15 Free Play Tidy Up	

Additional Information

The policy is available to all parents, staff and relevant stakeholders within the setting. We also offer a child friendly version; this is available to all children in the setting. We will review our policies every two years, next policy review to take place June 21st 2023.

At Múin After School the following policies are in place:

- Complaint's policy
- Policy on administration of medication
- Policy on infection control
- Policy on managing behaviour
- Policy on the dropping off and collection of children
- Statement of purpose and function
- Fire safety policy
- Safety Statement
- Child Safeguarding Statement

Muin policies are available to parents prior to their child starting After School, we review our policies annually and refresh information. Once a policy is renewed parents will be informed.. We understand the importance of communicating policy changes to parents/ guardians or caregivers in a timely manner.

Child Friendly Version of Statement of Purpose and Function

1:Who are we?

Múin After School

2: Why are we here?

We are here to provide services for children after school until their parents/guardians can collect them.

3: What happens in the afterschool space?

In Múin After School classroom we provide a happy & safe place where children can play, do homework, eat meals and snacks and have fun with other children.

4: What does Muin want?

We want all children to enjoy this service, to make new friends, to use teamwork and to help each other and treat each other with respect. We want every child to have fun and feel safe within our After School.



