Form for submission in response to DCYA open call

To make a submission please complete this form with as much detail as possible and attach any relevant documentation with your submission by **email to SACQuality@dcya.gov.ie by Friday 5th July at 1700.** Late submissions will not be considered.

Section 1: Contact details

Name	Shining Stars Academy Afterschool
Organisation (if any)	
Contact address	Church road, Athy, Co. Kildare
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Section 2: Questions about the submission

Please keep your submission to a maximum of 1,000 words.

As a guide:

1. Please give your views on future comprehensive regulations for School Age Childcare?
   We are in full agreement with regulation within afterschool. However, as part of the purposed regulations coming in it seems to have pre-school children in mind. The autonomy for the child is being removed for example, if the parent has given permission for the child to leave the afterschool service to attend extra curricula activity without an adult. This can place the service in a position of non-compliance. The freedom of movement throughout the building will be restricted if the ratio adult/ child is places within areas of interest. For example, if the children are taking part in a soccer match pertaining to 16 children outside with one adult to supervise and the second adult is inside with 4 children will this be deemed by the department as non-compliance.

2. Please give your views on the development of a national quality framework for School-Age Childcare services?

We welcome the changes but feel the department has failed to recognise the challenges within the afterschool environment as stated above. Afterschool is very different to supporting the needs of children compared with pre-school. Open-ended play provision may look very different across Ireland as the needs of children can vary greatly therefore it may pose difficult to determine quality.

3. Please give your views of the content of the Draft Standards published with this call for submissions?

We welcome that finally within the department afterschool children have recognition. The well-being of the child is valued, and the voice and opinions of children are being Acknowledged. The development of specific qualifications needs to be addressed. A child-care degree does not necessarily support the needs of an afterschool child. For example, a sports coach, music teacher, chef, arts director will not have a minimum level 5 in childcare and will than be excluded from supporting children within afterschool. This needs to be considered when making a final decision on level of qualification.