

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019TY009SA
Name of School Age Service:	Fethard Breakfast Club & After School Service
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Helena O'Meara
Address of School Age Service:	Holy Trinity National School, Rocklow Road, Fethard, Co Tipperary
Eircode:	E91 TD43

Date of Inspection:	11 May 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	N/A	PM	13

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	2nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick, V94 XT5F
Inspection undertaken by:	S O'Brien
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:	Fethard Breakfast Club & After School Service is located in a prefabricated unit at the back of a primary school in the town of Fethard in North Tipperary. The service cares for children in the age range 4 to 12 years, between the hours of 7.30am to 9.20am and 2.00pm and 6.30pm. Rooms in use in the service include a school age room with kitchen facilities, a hall
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area to hang coats and bags, a storeroom for toys, an office and sanitary accommodation for both children and staff. The service has the use of the school yard and a wooded area for outdoor play. The registered provider operates multiple standalone school age care services.

Staffing:

There are eleven staff employed in the service. The registered provider is not based in the service. On the day of inspection, five staff were present in the service.

Additional Information:

This inspection was triggered by information received by the inspectorate.

The child safeguarding statement has been referred to the Child Safeguarding Statement Unit for assessment and follow up if required.

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

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN0202	11/05/2026	Evidence of police vetting was not available for one staff member who had access to school age children.
Status	The registered provider submitted corrective actions which were accepted and addressed the statutory notice. A preventative action was requested but not received. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.	

Summary of Findings:

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

- Regulation 8(1)(c): Vetting disclosures
- Regulation 9(2): Staffing levels
- Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service
- Regulation 11(a): Outdoor premises

- Regulation 12: Insurance
- Regulation 13: Complaints
- Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

The registered provider was found non-compliant under the following:

- Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(d)(2): Vetting disclosures
- 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.

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 information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge, it was determined that eight new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. Nine staff files were reviewed including the file of the registered provider.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all nine staff.

The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1)

(a)(b) It is acknowledged that 4 validated references from a past employer and 13 validated references were from another source were available, however one reference was not available in respect of one staff member.

(d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN0202 served.

(2) The above procedures were not carried out prior to the staff being appointed, assigned or allowed contact with the school age children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective action

(1)

(b) One reference from another source and validation was submitted to the inspectorate.

(2) The references and police vetting have been obtained and documented evidence has been submitted to the inspectorate. A checklist has been developed to ensure the correct paperwork is on file for each staff member.

Preventive action

(1)

(b) Going forward all reference checks and validations will be carried out prior to the new staff members commencing employment. Inspections will be also carried out by area managers.

(2) All staff that require police vetting will furnish this to the service prior to commencing

employment and will not start until all paperwork such as references and Garda vetting is received.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted to the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements.

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) There were 13 children being cared for by 3 staff members. Two area managers were also present to provide support to the staff, therefore the minimum adult to child ratios were adhered to for the duration of the inspection.

Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service

A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that the policies and statements specified in Schedule 6 are in place for the service.

Regulatory Requirement Met

The following policies were reviewed:

- Statement of purpose and function
- Managing behaviour policy
- Complaints policy

The above policies were observed to contain the required information to support and guide the staff in their care practices.

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*

Regulatory Requirement Met

(a) The children had access to an outdoor space on the premises. The outdoor area consisted of a school yard and a wooded area.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The registered provider ensured the service was adequately insured. The insurance policy commenced on 27 March 2026 and expired on 27 March 2027.

Regulation 13: Complaints

(1) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies—

- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
- (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
- (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*

(2) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that—

(a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the school age service, and

(b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall—

(a) include the nature of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with, and

(b) be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1)

(a) The policy outlined the procedure to be followed by a person making a complaint.

(b) The policy outlined how the complaint would be dealt with.

(c) The policy outlined how the person making the complaint would be kept informed of the manner in which the complaint was being dealt with.

(2)

(a) The service had a record of one complaint which was made in respect of the service.

(b) The record available was dealt with in line with the services complaints policy. The complaint on record had not been closed out and the area manager outlined that the complaint will be closed out as soon as possible.

(3) There was one record available for review.

(a) The record included the nature of the complaint and how the complaint was dealt with.

(b) The record was open to inspection by the inspector.

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

- Four staff had an in-date certificate in first aid and were available to the children during the inspection in the event of first aid being required.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. On review of a sample of 18 accident and incident reports, 12 of the reports had not been signed by a parent or guardian, therefore it could not be determined if the child's parents or guardians were informed of the accident or incident. This posed a safety risk to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective action

Signatures have been obtained in respect of the reports. Documented evidence was submitted.

Preventive action

All accident and incident reports will be checked going forward and extra training will be given if necessary.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted to the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements.