

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022TY009SA
Name of School Age Service:	Cahir Breakfast Club & After School Service
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Helena O'Meara
Address of School Age Service:	Market Street Old School Cahir Co. Tipperary
Eircode:	E21 YY80

Date of Inspection:	30 July 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	27	PM	26
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore Co. Offaly
Inspection undertaken by:	A Spain
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:

Cahir Breakfast Club & After School Service is located in a single storey former school building in Cahir town. The service cares for children in the age range 4 to 15 years. The service is operational between the hours of 7.30 and 9.00am and 2.00 and 6.00pm during school term. The service is in operation between the hours of 8.00am and 2.00pm outside of school term times. Rooms in the service include three playrooms, a kitchen, an office and sanitary accommodation for both children and staff. An outdoor play area is provided at the back of the premises. The playrooms are used to provide a sessional pre-school service also during school terms.

Staffing:

The service is staffed by nine adults. An ancillary staff member is also available to provide meals during school terms. The registered provider does not work in the service.

Additional Information:

The inspector conducted a planned focused inspection of the service.

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:

- caters for children under the age of 15 years enrolled in a school providing primary or post-primary education,
- 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
- 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.

Summary of Findings:

On the day of inspection, the registered provider was found to be compliant in relation to:

- Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(c): Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance.

On the day of inspection, the registered provider was found to be non-compliant in relation to:

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

Conclusion and follow-up actions:

The non-compliance identified on inspection of the service has been addressed by the service and there are no follow-up actions required

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)(b)(c)

All staff had two validated references on their files from a combination of past employers and sources other than past employers as follows. A Garda vetting was held on file in respect of the 10 staff in the service. 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)(d)

Police vetting was not available in respect of two staff members who had lived outside of the State for over six consecutive months as adults. It was acknowledged that copies of applications to secure police vetting were both progressed and submitted to the inspector subsequent to the inspection.

(2)

All necessary police vetting procedures were not conducted prior to the appointment of two staff to work in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)(d)

The registered provider submitted a Police vetting secured for one staff member on the 6 December 2024. The registered provider advised in the response to the noncompliance that the second staff member requiring Police vetting was no longer working on the service.

(2)

The registered provider advised in the response to the inspection report that all of the necessary vetting procedures will be conducted prior to the appointment of any new staff to work in the service.

Summary of Findings

The registered provider provided actions to correct and prevent the reoccurrence of the non-compliance identified under Regulation 8:Vetting disclosures.

Regulation 9: Staffing levels

- (1) *Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of competent and suitable adults on the premises while the service is operating.*
- (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

(1)(2)

Four staff members were caring for a total of twenty seven children on arrival of the inspector. Children were playing in the outdoor play area. The sign in and out sheet in the outdoor area showed that the 27 children present were signed into the service on arrival. The inspector reviewed both the attendance records for children and the staff roster for both the day of inspection and the week of the 22 July 2024. The records reviewed showed that the minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children was maintained during this period.

(4)

Children were supervised in the outdoor play area by both sight and sound for the duration of the inspection. At 12.00pm, the children enjoyed lunch served in the outdoor school shelter while supervised by three staff members. Staff were observed to engage in conversation with children, comfort an upset child and sit with the children on the grass during the warm weather conditions.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 70 children in attendance at any one time in a school age service. Insurance cover was valid from the 28 March 2024 to the 27 March 2025