

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023LK008SA
Name of School Age Service:	Bruff Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider:	Claire McNamara
Address of School Age Service:	BGM Community Grounds, Brackvoan, Bruff, Limerick
Eircode:	V35 K208

Date of Inspection:	08 October 2025
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 37
Registration status:	Registered
Conditions (if applicable):	

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	2 nd 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).

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Description of Service:

Bruff Afterschool is a school age service located on the grounds of Scoil Dean Cussen national school in Bruff, Limerick. The service caters for children aged 4 to 12 years. The service operates from 8am to 8:40am and 1:30pm to 5:45pm, Monday to Friday. The service operates from a prefabricated structure that consists of two care rooms, sanitary facilities for children and staff, a kitchen and office area. The service has access to a large green area and the national school yard that is located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing:

There are six staff employed in the service. The registered provider is based in the service. On the day of inspection, there were four school age educators and the registered provider present.

Additional Information:

The inspection was triggered by information received by the inspectorate.

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, registered provider and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Summary of Findings:

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

- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service.
- Regulation 12: Insurance.

On inspection, the registered provider was found non-compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8: Vetting Disclosures.
- Child Care Act 1992, 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 was reviewed by the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements. This will be reviewed on 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) Six staff files were reviewed including the file of the registered provider.

(a) Ten of the references available were from a past employer and were validated.

(b) Two of the references available were from a reputable source and were validated.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all six staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) A Police vetting disclosure was available in respect of one staff member who had lived outside of a state for longer than six consecutive months.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(2) The registered provider did not ensure that the procedures specified in paragraph 1 had been fully carried out prior to one staff member being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with the school age children attending the service.

This posed a possible safety risk to the children as the registered provider did not adequately complete the required checks to ensure the suitability of the staff in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response that:

Corrective Action

An error was made by the registered provider on the day of inspection and provided an incorrect start date in respect of the staff member.

Preventive Action

All staff are currently garda vetted and will be renewed every 3 years. New staff taken on this year had relevant checks completed in advance of starting.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response was reviewed by the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements.

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) The registered provider ensured that there were adequate staff to care for the children during the inspection.

(2) On arrival to the service, there were 18 school age children being cared for by 4 staff members. At 2.50pm, there were 37 school age children being cared for by 4 staff members. Therefore, the minimum adult to child ratio was being adhered to for the duration of the inspection.

(4) It was observed that the staff members supervised the children at all times during the inspection. The children were supervised by sight and sound in the care rooms and outdoor areas.

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

On the day of inspection, the following policy was reviewed:

- Dropping off and collection policy.
- Statement of purpose and function.

The inspector reviewed the policy and was observed to contain the information required as per Regulation 10 and Schedule 6 of the regulations.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The registered provider ensured the school age service was adequately insured. The insurance policy commenced on 27 August 2025 and expired on 27 March 2026.

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

- The children were observed freely moving around the care rooms and outdoor areas partaking in activities of choice.
- The staff were observed interacting with the children in a respectful manner.
- Some children were observed eating an afternoon snack that was supplied by their parents and guardians.
- The staff were observed supporting the children with homework as needed.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. On arrival to the service, the designated person in charge was absent on the day of inspection. On discussion with the staff members present, the inspector could not determine a clear management structure in the absence of the registered provider and designated person in charge, as when asked, a staff member was not aware of her responsibility. This posed a possible risk to the children's safety and well-being.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response that:

Corrective Action

A staff member within the service has been appointed the position of deputy person in charge. The roles and lines of management are now clear and will be maintained and monitored over the coming weeks.

Preventive Action

A new deputy person in charge is now in place, and this staff member will be supported when needed.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response was reviewed by the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements. This will be reviewed on next inspection.