

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024GY016SA
Name of School Age Service:	Brierfield Afterschool and Breakfast Club
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Rebecca Southern
Address of School Age Service:	Brierfield, Tuam, Co. Galway
Eircode:	H54 DY79

Date(s) of Inspection:	10/12/2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	NA	PM	18
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate Markievicz House Barrack Street Sligo F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	K Folan A Spain
Title:	Early years inspectors

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:

Brierfield afterschool and breakfast club is a standalone service operating on the grounds of Brierfield national school in Tuam, Co. Galway. The service operates out of a portacabin at the rear of the school building. The service also has access to the main hall, sanitary accommodation and outdoor areas. The service is open from 2:00-6:00p.m Monday to Friday. The service is also registered for a breakfast club from 7:00-9:30a.m. however the breakfast club is not in operation at present. The service is currently registered for 24 children.

Staffing:

There are two adults working in the service, one of whom is the registered provider.

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:

- 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the children, registered provider and staff member 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)(d): 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)(a)(b)(2) Vetting disclosures.
- Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The inspectors reviewed the registered providers response, documented and photographic evidence that was submitted. The non- compliances found on inspection have been adequately addressed. This will be reviewed on the next inspection of the service.

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) Two references were held on file for two adults working in the service.
- (1)(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was held on file in respect of two adults working in the service.

Regulatory Requirement not met

- (1) (a)(b) References for one staff member was not validated.
- (2) Vetting procedures in respect of validation of references were not conducted prior to one staff member being appointed to the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action:

1. The registered provider submitted evidence that the references are now validated.

Preventative Action:

1. The registered provider has advised that in future all references will be validated before any adult commences employment in the service

Summary of Findings

The documented and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed by the inspectors 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 was an adequate number of adults on the premises while the service is operating.
- (2) On the day of the inspection, two adults cared for 18 children.
- (4) Children were observed to be appropriately supervised on the day of inspection. Adults were observed to assist children indoors while completing homework. Adults kept observation over children while they played freely outside.

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 24 children in daily attendance in a school age service. Insurance was valid from 26 August 2024 to 27 March 2025.

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 not met

1. The service did not maintain an accurate register of the children's daily attendance, detailing their time of arrival and their time of departure from the service. This posed a risk to the children for example, in the event of a requirement for an emergency evacuation from the service. On the day of the inspection, two children were not accounted for on the daily attendance record. It is acknowledged that the registered provider brought this to inspectors' attention and addressed it on the day.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

1. The registered provider stated that children all children attending are added to the register.

Preventative Action

1. The registered provider has advised that all staff have been made aware of the importance of keeping accurate records of attendance.

Summary of Findings

The documents submitted by the registered provider have been reviewed by the inspectors and has met the regulatory requirements.

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