

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024LK004SA
Name of School Age Service:	Broadford Breakfast Buddies and Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Bernie O' Keffe
Address of School Age Service:	Scoil Mhuire NS, Broadford , Co. Limerick
Eircode:	P56 VW31

Date of Inspection:	19 May 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	N/A	PM	40

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).

Description of Service:	Broadford Breakfast Buddies and Afterschool is a privately operated school age care service based in Broadford, Limerick. The service is located in Scoil Mhuire National School, Broadford. The service caters for children aged 4 to 15 years. The service operates from 7.30am to 9.30am and 2pm to 6pm,
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Monday to Friday. The service has access to a large hall and one classroom, and sanitary facilities for both children and staff. The service also has access to a large school yard to the front of the service and a school field to the rear of the building.

Staffing:

There are seven staff members employed in the service. The registered provider is based in the service. On the day of inspection, there were four staff members working directly with the children. The registered provider arrived at the service to facilitate the inspection.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

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.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN	19/05/2026	Evidence of international police vetting was not available for one staff member who had access to the children and was present on the day of inspection.
Status	The registered provider submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventative actions which were accepted by the inspectorate.	

Summary of Findings:

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

- Regulation 8(1)(b)(c): Vetting disclosures
- Regulation 9(2): Staffing levels
- Regulation 11(a): Premises
- 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)(d)(2): Vetting disclosures

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered providers response and documented evidence were 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) There were seven staff files reviewed which included the file of the registered provider.

(b) Six references were available from another source and were validated.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all seven staff members. 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) It is acknowledged that eight references from a past employer were available of which six were validated. However, two references did not have the required validations available.

(d) See Statutory Notice

(2) The procedures specified above were not carried out prior to the staff being appointed, assigned or allowed access to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective action

(1)

(a) The validations were submitted to the inspectorate.

(2) The validations and police vetting have been obtained.

Preventive action

(1)

(a) The service will use the validation reports when validating references with all future recruitments.

(2) the provider is now aware of the requirements for police vetting and will ensure it is obtained prior to a candidate commencing work in the service.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence were 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) The following adult to child ratios were observed which met the minimum adult to child ratios requirements:

- On arrival to the service, in the hall, there were 19 children being cared for by 4 staff

members

- At 3.30pm in the homework room there were 21 children being cared for by 2 staff members.

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) Outdoor space which was located on the premises was available to the children on a daily basis. Children were observed playing in the school yard in the afternoon.

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

- Five staff members held an in-date certificate in first aid and were available to the children if the event of medical treatment being required to be administered.