

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2025GY016SA
Name of School Age Service:	Carrabane Breakfast Club and Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Cliona Walsh Kinneen
Address of School Age Service:	Carrabane Parish Hall, Carrabane, Athenry, Co. Galway
Eircode:	H65 H680

Date of Inspection:	20/01/2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	NA	PM	16
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	K Folan
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:

Carrabane Breakfast Club and Afterschool is a standalone school age service located in Carrabane Village in Co. Galway. The service operates from 08:00-09:00 and 14:00-18:00 from Monday to Friday, for 38 weeks of the year. The service is based in the local parish hall, in close proximity to the national school. The building comprises of a large hall, a second room called the “sitting room”, a kitchen and sanitary accommodation for adults and children. An outdoor area is available at the back of the building.

Staffing:

There are three adults working in the service, including the registered provider. Two adults work in the service on a daily basis and one adult is available to provide cover in the event of staff absences.

Additional Information:

The inspection was completed as a result of 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:

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

Summary of Findings:

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

- Regulation 9: Staffing Levels
- Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service: Complaints Policy
Drop off and collection policy
- Regulation 12: Insurance
- Regulation 13: Complaints

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

- Regulation 8: 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 inspector reviewed the registered providers response, documented and photographic evidence that was submitted. The non- compliances found on inspection have been adequately addressed.

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.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1) Three staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection and the following information was available:

- (a) Two written and validated references were available from past employers in respect of two adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for three adults including the registered provider. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) This was not applicable as records demonstrated that no staff members had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(b) Four written and validated references were available from reputable sources in respect of three adults. However, one of the written references from a source other than a past employer had been obtained in respect of one adult whose employment record showed that references should have been sought from previous employers.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The required written reference from the adult's most recent employer has now been obtained, validated and placed on the staff member's personnel file. This ensures that references are sourced in line with the individual's employment history and in compliance with Regulation 8. Documentary evidence was submitted by the registered provider.

Summary of Findings

The documented and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed by the inspector 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 adequate staffing levels were maintained during the inspection.
- (2) On the afternoon of the inspection:
- 16 children aged between 5 and 12 years old attended the service and were supervised by 2 adults.

(4) Children were adequately supervised by adults in the service during the afternoon activities, while completing homework and at mealtime. In the outdoor area staff positioned themselves to ensure children were supervised by sight at all times.

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 policy was assessed and contained information to meet the regulatory requirement:

- Complaints policy
- Dropping off and collection policy

The inspector reviewed the above policies, and they contained information required as per Schedule 6 of the regulation.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service had adequate insurance in place for 36 children to attend a school age service and was valid from 28 August 2025 to 27 March 2026.

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.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1)(a)(b)(c)

The complaints policy was available for review. The policy listed the ways in which a complaint could be made. The policy detailed the procedure of how to make a complaint and how the service would respond to the complaint. It outlined the timelines involved in dealing with the complaint and that the complainant would be kept informed of the complaint's procedure. There was a child friendly complaints policy that was given to the children at the beginning of the term outlining how they could make a complaint if required.

The registered provider confirmed that no complaints had been received by the service to date.

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 adults in the service were observed speaking kindly to the children and engaging respectfully with them.
- The children appeared happy in the service and were familiar with the routine in the afternoon. A visual schedule of the afternoons activities was on display on the wall as the children arrived.

- The registered provider ensured the children were safe while walking from school to the service. Staff took a roll call before leaving the school to ensure all children were present. The children wore high visibility jackets provided by the service and the inspector observed good road safety at all times during the journey from the national school to the service.
- The children had access to the outdoor environment which was a tarmacadam covered surface with a basketball net and footballs available for play.
- The outdoor space was secure and free of any hazardous objects.
- The children were served a snack on their arrival to the service. On the day of inspection, the snack consisted of fruit, waffles and pancakes.
- On the day of inspection, there was one staff member trained in first aid for children available to the children.
- Two carbon monoxide alarms were present and in working order.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. The front door leading into the service was alarmed to alert staff of the arrival of parents to the service. However, the door was not secured to prevent an unauthorised adult entering the service or a child leaving unsupervised. When advised of this requirement the registered provider took immediate steps to obtain a key for the door and secured it.
2. The weather on the day of inspection was cold, the temperature in the service ranged from 15- 16.1° Celsius. It was acknowledged that two gas heaters were turned on throughout the inspection, however the temperature of the building failed to rise.
3. There was a large amount of condensation on the inside walls and windows on one side of the hall.
4. In the sanitary accommodation, there was no warm water available for handwashing. The temperature of the water was 6° Celsius.
5. In the sanitary accommodation, handroll for hand drying was stored loosely, posing a risk of cross contamination. An alternative electric hand dryer was present however it was not switched on.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider responded:

1. On the day of inspection, the registered provider obtained a key for the front door leading into the service. The door is now secured locked while the service is in operation. A daily opening and closing checklist have been implemented to ensure that all entry and exit points, including the front door, are secure at all times during service hours.
 2. The service has implemented regular monitoring of room temperature. A dedicated room thermometer has been obtained and is now used to monitor temperatures throughout the session. Room temperature is now checked and recorded during each session. Heating is activated whenever temperatures approach or fall below 18.5° Celsius. All doors that may impact room temperature are kept closed during service hours.
 3. Following the inspection, the registered provider reviewed the areas where condensation was observed. It was identified that the windows are fitted with trickle flow vents and these are now kept open at all times to support continuous ventilation. In addition, after the breakfast club session each morning, windows are opened to allow for increased airflow and to reduce condensation levels within the hall.
 4. Following the inspection, the registered provider liaised with the hall committee regarding the lack of warm water in the sanitary accommodation. It was identified that the switches controlling the hot water supply to the bathroom taps were not turned on prior to all sessions. The switches are now turned on before each session to ensure warm water is available for handwashing. Water temperatures are now monitored and recorded, with temperatures consistently reaching between 25 and 40° Celsius during service hours.
 5. Following the inspection, the registered provider ensured that the electric hand dryers in the sanitary accommodation are switched on and available for use during all sessions. In addition, the storage of handrolls has been reviewed and loose handrolls are no longer used.
Hand drying facilities are now provided through either electric hand dryers or protected paper towels dispensed from wall-mounted dispensers already in place within the bathrooms.
- Photographic and documentary evidence was submitted by the registered provider as evidence of the above measures.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services



Summary of Findings

The documented and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed by the inspector and has met the regulatory requirements.