

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019TY009SA
Name of School Age Service:	Fethard Breakfast Club & After School Service
Name of Registered Provider:	Helena O'Meara
Address of School Age Service:	Holy Trinity National School, Rocklow Road, Fethard, Co. Tipperary.
Eircode:	E91 TD43

Date of Inspection:	14 October 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Not applicable	PM	22
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).

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Description of Service:

Fethard Breakfast Club & After School Service is located in a prefabricated unit at the back of a primary school in the town of Fethard in North Tipperary. The service cares for children in the age range 4 to 12 years between the hours of 2.00 and 6.30pm. The service also provides a breakfast club daily between 7.30 and 9.20am. Rooms in use in the service include a school age room with kitchen facilities, a hall area to hang coats and bags, a storeroom for toys, an office and sanitary accommodation for both children and staff. The service has the use of the school green area, school yard and a basketball court for outdoor play after school hours.

Staffing:

The service is staffed by four adults which includes a relief staff member. The registered provider does not work directly 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, area manager, person in charge 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)(a)(b)(c)(d)(2): Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance;

Conclusion and follow up actions:

There are no follow up actions following this 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)(a)(b)(c)(d)

Two validated references from reputable sources were held on file in respect of three of the staff working in the service. A validated reference from a reputable source and a validated reference from a past employer were held on file in respect of the fourth staff member. A Garda vetting was held on file for all staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Curricula Vitae confirmed that none of the staff had lived outside of the state and required Police vetting.

(2)

Records held on file confirmed that vetting procedures were conducted prior to appointment of staff to work in the service.

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)

Two adults cared for a total of 22 children on the day of inspection. Thirteen children remained in the service after 4.45pm under the care of the two staff members. Records reviewed by the inspector confirmed that all children were signed into the service. Children's departure times were recorded on collection from the service.

A review of children's attendance records and the staff roster for the week of the 23 September 2024 confirmed that three staff members were present on the days when the number of children in daily attendance exceeded 14. Three staff members were rostered as in attendance on the 25 September 2024 when the number of children recorded in attendance was 16. Three staff members were rostered as in attendance on the 26 September 2024 when the number of children recorded in attendance was 15. Two staff members were rostered as in attendance when the maximum number of children in daily attendance was recorded as 14 on the 23 September 2024.

(4)

On the day of inspection, children were observed to be supervised by the staff for a snack on arrival from the school classrooms and for homework after snack time. The 13 children remaining in the service at 4.45pm were also under the supervision of the two staff members when taken outdoors to play in the yard outside of the playroom.

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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 48 children in a school age service. Insurance was valid from 28 March 2024 to the 27 March 2025.