

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021LK029SA
Name of School Age Service:	Banogue Community Creche
Name of Registered Provider:	Michael Curtin
Address of School Age Service:	Banogue, Croom, Limerick.
Eircode:	V35 HY63

Date of Inspection:	10 November 2025		
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM	27	
Registration status:	Registered		
Conditions (if applicable):	N/A		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	2 nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick, V35 XT5F
Inspection undertaken by:	S O'Brien & J Ryan
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).

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Description of Service:

Banogue Community Creche is a community operated school age service based in the village of Banogue, Limerick. The service caters for children aged 4 to 12 years. The service operates between 7.30am to 9am and 1.40pm to 6pm. The service operates from a prefabricated structure and two classrooms in the local national school. The service is also registered as an early years service.

Staffing:

There are 27 staff employed in the early years and school age service. The registered provider is not based in the service.

Additional Information:

The inspection was triggered by information received by the inspectorate.

On 10 November 2025, an Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider under regulation Child Care Act 1992, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

On 11 November 2025, a response was submitted to the inspectorate and was deemed adequate. Further information can be found under the relevant regulation of this report.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the children, person in charge, 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.
- Regulation 12: Insurance.

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 registered providers response and documented evidence 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) Following a review of previous early years inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that three new staff members had been employed since the previous early years inspection. The three staff members worked directly with the children.
- A total of three files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for five staff members whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.
- (a) Three of the six references available were from a past employer. Two of the references

were validated.

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

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for seven staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Garda vetting that was identified as due for renewal for the eighth staff member no longer worked in the service and therefore was not required.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived outside of a state for longer than six consecutive months.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1)

(a)(b)

1. One reference and validation were not available in respect of one staff member.

2. One validation was not available in respect of a second staff member.

(2)

In respect of two staff members, the procedures outlined above were not carried out prior to the staff member being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with the children attending the school age service. This posed a possible risk to the children's wellbeing.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in the response:

Corrective Action

(1)

(a)(b)

1. A written reference and validation was submitted to the inspectorate.

2. A validation in respect of the second staff member was submitted to the inspectorate.

(2)

The references have been obtained for the staff members.

Preventive Action

(1)

(a)(b)

A checklist has been developed for all new staff for what needs to be on file before the staff member commences employment.

(2)

The service will ensure that all staff have two references and are validated before the staff member starts in the service.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted and reviewed by the inspectorate. The response meets the regulatory requirements and will be reviewed on next inspection.

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 there was an adequate number of staff caring for the school age children during the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured the minimum adult to child ratio was being adhered to during the inspection. There were 27 children being cared for by 6 staff members.

(4) The staff were observed to be supervising the school age children primarily by sight in the care rooms. The inspector also observed the school aged children being supervised by sound while using the sanitary facilities and in the corridors.

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 policies were reviewed:

- Behaviour management policy

The inspector reviewed the policy and it 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 that the service was adequately insured. The insurance policy 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 freely moving around the room partaking in activities of choice.
- The staff were observed supporting children with homework when needed.
- The staff listened to the children's voices and communicated with them in a kind and respectful manner.
- The children had chicken, pasta, cheese and sauce and were observed to enjoy the food.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. It was observed that the main entrance to two care rooms was unsecured and did not prevent a child from exiting the service unsupervised or any unauthorised access to the service. This posed a safety risk to the children in these care rooms.

An Immediate Action Notice was issued on 10 November 2025. On 11 November 2025, a response was received. It outlined that the door would remain locked until a staff member opens it to let a child leave with their parent or guardian. A staff member will monitor the entrance door to the service and a doorbell has been purchased to alert staff.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective Action

The doors to all rooms will be kept closed and monitored by staff at all times. A ring doorbell has been placed on the school door for parents to use. Photographic evidence of a sign and door bell placed on the door was submitted.

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Preventive Action

A staff member will ensure that the front door is locked at all times, and the room doors are kept closed.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted and reviewed by the inspectorate. The response meets the regulatory requirements and will be reviewed on next inspection.