

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC291
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Ghleann Maghair Teo
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Address of Service:	An Halla, Glanmire Football Club, Sallybrook, Glanmire, Co Cork
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Eircode:	T45 XE36
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Name of Registered Provider:	Eorann Hopkins
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	13/05/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork T23 X440
Inspection undertaken by:	D Prendergast
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla 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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

Naíonra Ghleann Maghair Teo is a sessional category, early years service. Care and education are provided to children aged 2 to 6 years and the setting is currently registered to operate from Monday to Thursday, between 8.50am and 12.20pm. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme is facilitated over 41 weeks of the year. The service operates from Glanmire Football Club, which is located in an urban area of Glanmire in Co Cork. There is one operational care room on the first floor, which has adjacent sanitary facilities.

Staffing

At the time of inspection, there were six adults attached to the service. Five of these adults were involved in the care of the children, including one volunteer. The registered provider is not based at the service. All four of the staff members employed to work directly with the children have attained a relevant award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the 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 rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance 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 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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,

(b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and

(2) A registered provider 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.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major

award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A designated person in charge of the service and a deputy were identified in writing.
- (b) The person in charge facilitated the inspection process. According to the staff records, the service was consistently operated with either the person in charge or the deputy present.
- (2) Recruitment records relating to the six adults attached to the setting were assessed and the following information was obtained:
- (a) Twelve written and validated references were required in total. Of these, there were four on file from past employers.
- (b) A further six written and validated references were from sources other than previous employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all six adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.
- (d) The required police vetting was available for 2 of the adults, who had lived in other jurisdictions for 6 consecutive months or longer, while over the age of 18 years.
- (4) Documentation on file confirmed that each of the four adults, who were employed to work directly with the children, held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a)(b)
- Two written and validated references were unavailable in respect of one of the adults.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In her written response, the person in charge stated that two references were requested from referees and were validated. It will be ensured that written references are requested for all staff, students and volunteers and these will be validated before a person begins working at the service. The recruitment policy has been updated to reflect this.

Supporting documentation submitted

Two written and validated references in respect of the adult and a copy of the service's students and volunteers policy.

Summary Comment

The corrective action implemented has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 9.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

- (1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults was available to the children throughout the period of inspection.
- (3) The service adhered to the requirements of the regulation. It was noted that 3 adults worked directly with 20 children, who were aged 2 ½ to 5 years.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*
- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*

Compliance Information

- (j) The inspector was informed by the person in charge that medication had not been administered to any of the children during the current school year. Past administration of medication records was noted to have been completed in full and included all of the required information.

Non-Compliance Information

(a) A curriculum vitae was unavailable for one of the adults.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The written reply stated that the curriculum vitae has been obtained. The recruitment policy will highlight the requirement for a CV to be provided for all staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the adult's curriculum vitae was forwarded.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted adequately addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 16.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic needs:

- Snack time was accommodated shortly before 11.00am. The children appeared to enjoy the various foods provided by their parents and caregivers and were afforded ample time to eat and drink, at a relaxed pace. Staff members were readily available to provide appropriate assistance to the children, such as pouring drinks of water and helping to open food packaging.
- A jug of water and cups were stored on a low-level table in the care room. This ensured that drinking water was accessible to the children during and outside of the designated mealtime.

- When accessing the adjacent sanitary facilities, the children were supervised by the adults, who offered verbal reminders in relation to handwashing practice. The inspector was advised by the person in charge that all of the children were toilet trained.
- Suitable aprons were worn by the children during a painting activity.
- The service's designated outdoor play space was unavailable for use at the time of inspection, due to access issues. However, the spacious indoor environment allowed for active play and movement, which was observed during an obstacle course activity and a dancing game.

Supporting relationships:

- The adults encouraged the children to interact positively with one another by modelling kind behaviour, such as speaking in low tones of voice and through acknowledging the children's interests, as they engaged in free play. An adult led relaxation exercise was also observed during the daily routine, which promoted self-care and overall wellbeing.
- When a minor disagreement arose between two of the children, one of the adults was noted to adopt a calm and supportive approach. The views of both children were listened to and the children were given an opportunity to solve the problem together.
- The service worked in partnership with parents. For example, the person in charge advised the inspector that several parents attended committee meetings, during which a collaborative approach was taken to discussing matters and developing solutions. A messaging application was identified as the primary method for circulating updates and notifications to parents. A sample of previous messages were viewed by the inspector and included information regarding curriculum activities and transitioning to primary school.
- In order to ensure effective staff communication, regular meetings took place and written records were available to this effect. The meetings were used in conjunction with informal daily discussion and weekly planning. A messaging application was also utilised by staff to share additional information.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- A sufficient amount of suitably sized tables and chairs were provided for the children’s use, during table top activities and mealtimes.
- The care room was well resourced with a variety of age-appropriate equipment. These materials were displayed on low-level shelving, within easy reach for the children.
- The range of interest items available included construction toys, handheld vehicles, a large car garage, dolls and accessories, kitchen utensils, art and craft materials, playdough, dolls houses and a wooden fire station.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General safety:

- An intercom system was in place at the main entrance door to the service. On the interior, the door release button was located at adult height, which reduced the likelihood of a child exiting unsupervised.
- It was noted that the door to the kitchen was maintained secure when not in use.
- Fire extinguishers were securely wall mounted.
- The cleaning agents were stored in secure areas, out of the children’s reach.

Infection control:

- Effective handwashing was promoted through the provision of warm running water, liquid soap, paper towel dispensers and foot pedal operated bins, at the children’s wash hand basins. The children were noted to wash their hands after using the sanitary facilities and before eating.
- Tables were sanitised before the mid-morning snack took place.
- Perishable foods were refrigerated prior to consumption.
- The children’s bags were suitably stored on individually labelled wall hooks, outside the main care room.
- The care room was supplied with fresh air, through open windows.

Fire safety:

- Fire exit signage was illuminated and fire exits were free from obstruction.

Non-Compliance Information

General safety:

The Garda vetting disclosure available for one of the adults was not dated within the previous three years, in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The correct action stated that a Garda vetting renewal application has been submitted for processing. As a preventive measure, this will be checked monthly. The safety policy has also been updated to this effect.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence in relation to the application for the Garda vetting was submitted. Updated Garda vetting was processed on 10 July 2025.

Summary Comment

Following the corrective action implemented, regulatory compliance is determined to have been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The available insurance certificate demonstrated that adequate cover was in place for up to 22 children to attend the sessional service at any one time. The policy was valid from 28 November 2024 until 27 November 2025.