

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC451
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Name of Service:	Turner's Cross Pre-School
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Address of Service:	Bunscoil Chríost Rí, Evergreen Road, Turner's Cross, Cork, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	T12 H6KA
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Name of Registered Provider:	Johanne Murphy
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	09/10/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	44	PM	N/A
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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

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

Turner's Cross Pre-School is in operation since 2004 and is located in Bunscoil Chríost Rí national school in Cork city. The service operates from 8.45am to 12.15pm, Monday to Friday. The service caters for children aged 2 to 6 years and offers the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. The service consists of three care rooms with sanitary facilities for the children adjacent to each care room. The service also has access to a large hall and outdoor area on the grounds of the national school.

Staffing

There are seven staff members employed in the service which includes the registered provider. The registered provider is based in the service. On the day of inspection, there were seven staff members present.

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. 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 registered provider, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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) The registered provider was the designated person in charge, and a named person was available to deputise if needed.
 - (b) The registered provider and the named person were on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in place, and the staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) Seven staff files were reviewed including the file of the registered provider.
- (a) Ten of the references were from a past employer and were validated.
 - (b) Four of the 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.
 - (d) Police vetting disclosures were available for two staff members who had lived outside of a state for longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) All seven staff members held a relevant qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education from level 5 to level 6 or a qualification deemed equivalent by the minister.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The following policy was reviewed:

- Accident and incident policy.

The policy was observed to contain the relevant information to guide the staff in their care practices.

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) The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of staff caring for the children during the inspection.
- (3) It was observed that the minimum adult to child ratios were being adhered to during the inspection:
- In Room 1, there were 12 children aged 2 to 4 years being cared for by 2 staff.
 - In Room 2, there were 14 children aged 2 to 4 years being cared for by 2 staff.
 - In Room 4, there were 18 children aged 2 to 4 years being cared for by 3 staff.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

- (1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*
- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*

(i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 12 children's records were reviewed and were completed with the relevant information as outlined from (a) to (i).

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:

- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1) The following records were reviewed:

- (j) There was one record of medication administration to a child in the service. the record was observed to be completed with the relevant information.
- (k) Five accident and incident reports were available for review and contained the relevant information.

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

- Individual water bottles were available to the children on a child height shelf in the care rooms.

- All the children had an opportunity to play in the outdoor environment. Some children were observed spending time in the large hall available to the service.
- Care plans were available for the children who required them and supported the staff in their care practices.
- Children's lunches were prepared by the parents and guardians. Lunches consisted of fruit, vegetables, yoghurts, meat sandwiches and wraps. The staff outlined that alternative foods was available in the care rooms for the children should it be needed.
- The staff were observe supporting children with toileting when needed, while encouraging independence.
- The children were observed freely moving around the care rooms throughout the day, partaking in activities of choice.

Supporting relationships

- Family walls were in the care rooms to support the children's sense of identity and belonging.
- The staff were observed sitting with the children at lunch time making a relaxed environment to sit and enjoy their food.
- The staff were observed interacting with the children in a kind and respectful manner. The staff ensured they were at the child's level when communicating with them. The staff listened to each child's voice and valued their opinion.
- It was observed that there was a sense of teamwork and collaboration between the staff and the registered provider.

Programme of activities:

- Children in Room 4 were observed making traffic lights and learned about road safety which was the theme of the week. This promoted the children's knowledge of road safety awareness.
- The children were observed playing with peg boards, counting animals and nuts and bolts. This promoted the children's fine motor and cognitive skills.
- The children in Room 1 were observed reading the story 'The Hungry Caterpillar' which promoted children to learn about healthy eating.
- The children were observed playing with playdough which promoted the children's fine motor skills and sense of different textures.
- The children were observed moving around the room to music which promoted physical development.

- The children in Room 2 were observed playing with musical instruments to allow children to express their emotions. The children's cognitive development such as coordination was being developed through this activity.
- The children were observed carrying out an art and craft activity on 'The Galaxy'. This promoted children's sensory development and to use their imagination.

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:

- The main entrance door to the service was secure on arrival to the service.
- The outdoor area was a secure environment for the children to play in on inspection.
- The toys and equipment in the care rooms were observed to be in good condition during the inspection.
- Flexes and cables were in good condition and out of reach to children on inspection.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach to the children during the inspection.

Infection Control:

- Children were observed washing their hands after outdoor play and before snack time. Warm water, soap and paper towel were available in the sanitary areas.
- Perishable food items from the children's lunches were stored in a refrigerator to prevent food spoilage.
- The care rooms and sanitary facilities were naturally ventilated through open windows.

Fire Safety:

- All fire exits were observed to be clear and free from obstruction during the inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that the children were checked in and out on an attendance book.

(3) A staff member requested the inspector to check in and out of the service on arrival and departure.