

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015CE054

Name of Service: Glor na nOg

Address of Service: Kilkshen National School, Kilkshen, Co. Clare

Eircode: V95 EK54

Name of Registered Provider: Maeve McNamara

Service type: Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

Date of Inspection: 21/03/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	2
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare
Inspection undertaken by:	Á. McCarthy
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	Not applicable
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Description of service

Glor na nOg was established in 2010, in the rural village, of Kilkishen, County Clare. The service is located in one care room in a modular structure to the rear of the national school building. A programme of care and education is facilitated on a full day care, part-time and sessional basis Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 17:45 for children ranging from two to six years of age. A school aged childcare service is provided in the care room each afternoon. The children have access to an outdoor play area to the rear of the modular structure.

Staffing

The registered provider and three adults are employed in the service. On the 21 March 2025 the registered provider and three adults worked directly with the children in attendance. The registered provider provides an administrative role and works directly with the children.

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 and safety. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(c)(d) and (4)

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (2) (8)(a)

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid (1) (2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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. 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, 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,*
- (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 person in charge, and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The registered provider and the deputy were available during the inspection.

(2)

Four files were available in respect of the registered provider and the three adults working in the service. The findings included the following:

(a)

Eight written and validated references from past employers in respect of the adults working in the service were available.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the adults employed by the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

International police vetting was not required in respect of the adults working in the service. The adults working directly with the children had not lived in another state for a period longer than six months.

(4)

The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications at Level 7 and Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

- (1)
During the inspection, an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.
- (2)
On the 21 March 2025, the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained. Four adults cared for the seventeen children attending in the morning and three adults cared for the two children in attendance in the afternoon.
- (8)(a)
The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available in the childcare facility at all times.

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)

The children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service through the provision of appropriate activities, interactions, materials and equipment having regard to the age and developmental stage of the children. One care room was in operation during the inspection.

Basic Needs of Children:

The adults treated the children in a caring manner and positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions. The adults praised and encouraged the children, conversed with the children at their level, used soft tones of voice and responded promptly to their cues for assistance and comfort. The children were encouraged to be independent in play and learning, whilst caring for their belongings, at mealtime and whilst using the toilet. The adults supervised and treated the children in a sensitive manner during toileting. Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care and prompted to wipe their noses at appropriate intervals.

The adults supported the children's choice of individual and group engagement in play based and educational activities. The children were offered a range of developmentally challenging play and learning activities. The children chose their activities in accordance with their individual preference and engaged in pretend, constructive, social and sensory play in the indoor environment. The children transitioned from the indoor to the outdoor environment engaging in physical, imaginative, creative and sensory play. Mealtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable occasion. Parents provided healthy and nutritious food and beverages for the children. Beverages of water was freely available and placed in an accessible area in the care room.

Physical and Material Environment:

The care room was bright, decorated with colourful visual learning aids and the children's artwork and was well-resourced. The room was laid out to enable the children to freely access the equipment and materials. Throughout the day, the children were offered a range of developmentally challenging play and educational activities and observed to be fully engaged as they transitioned from the indoor to the outdoor environments. A variety of stimulating opportunities for play and learning were available and accessible in the indoor and outdoor environments with defined areas of interest. The care room was appropriately resourced and laid out with a home corner, a wooden supermarket, a dolls play area, a dress up area, a farm and car garage section. Accessible shelving accommodated a range of games, puzzles, shape sorters and pretend play equipment. Seating, low-level beds and soft furnishings with an adjacent bookshelf with a selection of reading materials were available for use by the children to rest and relax.

The outdoor play area located to the rear of the service was accessible from the care room. The children had access to an astroturf enclosed court on the premises. The play areas were enclosed with fencing and gates. All weather clothing and footwear were available for use by the children. The children had access to an activity unit, a tunnel, hopping balls, sensory play tables, bikes and ride on motorbikes, rocking toys, balls, a basketball net. A shed accommodated a large range of outdoor play equipment. The children were observed to thoroughly enjoy their time in the indoor and outdoor environments.

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 entrance to the service was secured to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The outdoor area was secured with fencing, walls and gates to protect the children within.
- The children were signed in and out on arrival and departure to and from the service and were supervised at all times during the inspection.
- Storage facilities were secured and inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, lined pedal operated bins.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals after activities, after using the toilet and on return from outdoor play and before mealtime.
- The adults promoted effective coughing and nasal care etiquette with the children.
- The children's perishable food items were stored in a refrigerator.
- The children's personal belongings were stored in individually labelled shelving units.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered during the inspection.
- The adults demonstrated an awareness of the service administration of medication policy and procedures.
- Written records were available demonstrating consent for administration of prescription and non-prescription medication and a parental signature after medication had been administered to the children.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exit routes and passageways were clear from obstruction.
- The fire assembly point was readily identifiable. A fire action notice was displayed at the fire exit points in the building.
- The service demonstrated evidence of completing monthly fire drills to prepare the service to respond in the event of fire.

Outing:

- The registered provider stated that outings are not undertaken by the service.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1)
Three adults had records of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training. The staff roster indicated that an adult with First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available in the service at all times.

(2)(a)
Two suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored in the care room for use in the indoor and outdoor environment.

(b)
The first aid boxes were available in the care room for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-

(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and

(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)
Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were carried out by the service. The last fire drill took place on the 19 February 2025.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system maintenance service took place on the 05 June 2024.

(4)

A fire action notice was displayed demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for 36 pre-school children. The insurance policy for the full day care service is valid until the 27 March 2026.