

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE054
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Name of Service:	Glor na nÓg
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Address of Service:	Kilkshen National School, Kilkshen, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V95 EK54
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Name of Registered Provider:	Maeve McNamara
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	29/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	7
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare V95TY4E
Inspection undertaken by:	A. 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 nÓg is a sessional service located in the rural village, of Kilkishen, County Clare. Eleven children attended the morning sessional service and seven children attended the afternoon session on the day of inspection. The service operates Monday to Friday for thirty-eight weeks each year. A play-based programme is facilitated from 08:45 to 11:45 and 12:00 to 15:00 for children ranging in age from three to six years. The service is located in a modular structure to the rear of the national school. The children have access to an area to the rear of the modular structure and a synthetic grass surfaced area to the rear of the school on a rostered basis for physical play.

Staffing

On the 29th of May 2023 three members of staff worked directly with the children, these included the registered provider, the deputy manager and a childcare worker. The members of staff held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. The staff members held evidence of engagement in continuing professional development in their files.

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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19(1)(a), 23, 25, 26 and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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*

(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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

(b)

A designated person in charge and a person who is able to deputise as required were available at all times in the service.

Four files were available for the registered provider, two members of staff and a relief person. These four files were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)

(a)

Five validated references were available from past employers.

(b)

Three references with evidence of verification were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c)

Four Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the three members of staff working directly with the children and the relief contact persons.

(d)

Not applicable, as the adults had not lived outside the jurisdiction for a period longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

The staff working directly with the children, had evidence of an Early Childhood Care and Education qualification ranging from Level 5 to 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.

(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 worked directly with the children attending the service.
- (3)
The staff roster indicated that the minimum ratio of adults caring for the children was adhered to at all times. Three adults supervised the eleven children during the morning session and the seven children that attended the afternoon session.

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)
Twenty-one completed enrolment forms were available for the number of children enrolled in the service. A sample of eleven records were reviewed and detailed the required particulars outlined in (1) (a)-(i).

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 inspector observed the children's learning, development, and well-being to be supported by the staff. The staff treated the children with positive regard. This was observed by the staff interacting with the children at their height, playing with the children in a group and individually in a respectful manner and conversing with the children in soft spoken voices. The children guided the programme of activities throughout the session and transitioned freely from the indoor to outdoor area under supervision in accordance with their preferences.

On the inspector's arrival to the service, the children were engaged in physical play in the synthetic grass surfaced area. The children transitioned from open ended, table-top play to mealtime to outdoor play and the session finished with the children dancing and singing in preparation for their graduation. The staff demonstrated a strong ethos of teamwork during the facilitation of the programme of care.

Designated areas of interests were available in the bright, open plan indoor environment. The room displayed bunting on the ceiling, photographs of the children's completed activities, educational, numerical and alphabetical posters, spring theme illustrations and the children's work. The areas of interest included a colourful tent, a wooden kitchen with supporting materials and equipment, a reading and rest area and an emotions area provided an illustration for the children to refer to and express their feelings. A table provided an area with farm machinery, a barn, tractors and trucks, a wooden shopping unit and a construction area were available to the children. A shelving unit and containers with play materials and equipment, low level chairs and tables were accessible and supported the children to be independent.

The outdoor area located to the rear of the service was enclosed by a wooden fence and gate; this area provided a space for the children to freely move. Areas of interest included a blackboard, bikes, a rocking horse, a construction unit with supporting play equipment, a slide, a crawling tunnel, boxes of building blocks and a train track.

A shed stored additional equipment for the children and a covered section was available to the children. A second synthetic grass surfaced area enclosed by a high fence and gate on the school grounds is available for use by the children to run and play in daily.

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 leading into the reception area was secured by a lock preventing unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The outdoor area to the rear of the service was safely enclosed by a wooden fence.
- The materials and equipment in the indoor and outdoor environment appeared to be in good condition.
- Medications were stored out of reach in the kitchen.
- The storage of cleaning equipment was out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in clean condition and cleaning schedules were available demonstrating the measures taken by staff.
- Warm running water, liquid soap and hand paper towels were available in the care room and in the sanitary facilities.
- The adults and the children washed their hands before mealtimes, after using the toilet, messy play, and outdoor play activities.
- The children's perishable food items were stored in the fridge in the care room.

Administration of Medication:

- A service policy and documentation were available for medication administered in the service.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exits and passageways were clear from obstruction.
- Signage demonstrating the fire exits routes were clearly visible in the service.
- A fire assembly area was located adjacent to the service.

Outing:

- An outing was not undertaken during the inspection.

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)
The registered provider and another staff member had a record of up to date First Aid Responder training, the certificate was valid until the 3rd July 2025.

(2)(a)
A suitably equipped first aid box was stored adjacent in the care room.

(b)
The first aid box was available adjacent to 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 fire drills were carried out in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 24th April 2023.

(b)
A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was available. The most recent firefighting equipment service maintenance took place 27th October 2022.

(4)
A fire action notice demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the care room.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)
A record for the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarm system was not available. The most recent fire detection and alarm system maintenance service took place in 2021.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)(b)
Corrective and Preventive Action
The maintenance service for the fire detection and alarm system took place on the 12th June 2023.

Supporting documentation submitted
A copy of the fire detection and alarm system's maintenance certificate.

Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted a response and supporting documentation to the inspectorate. Based on the information provided

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Insurance cover was available for up to twenty-two pre-school children attending this sessional service. The policy is valid until the 27th March 2024.