

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CE107
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Ui Choimin
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gael Scoil Ui Choimin, Kilrush, Co. Clare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V15 KT32
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sinead O'Gorman
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/10/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á. McCarthy
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Naíonra Uí Choimin was notified to Tusla in 2011, as a privately operated service, which is located in Gael Scoil Uí Choimin, in the town of Kilrush, County Clare. The service accommodates children ranging in age from two to six years, Monday to Friday from 09:15 to 12:30. A programme of care is facilitated in one room within the school, located in a prefabricated structure. An outdoor play area is located to the front of the service, and the children can access the school hall on a rostered basis.

### Staffing

Three adults are employed by the service. On the 09 October 2025, the registered provider and a second adult worked directly with the children in attendance. The registered provider is the owner and manager of the service. The adults working in the service held appropriate qualifications 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 and safety.

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

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (3)

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

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid (1)(a)(b)(4)

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. 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, the member of 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.*

*(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*

*(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)

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

- (a)  
Two references from past employers in respect of the adults working in the service were available.
- (c)  
Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the two adults currently working in 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 who had 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 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a)(b)  
1. Two references with evidence of validation in respect of one adult were not available.  
2. Two references for a second adult had not been validated.
- (3)  
The procedures outlined in paragraph (2) were not carried out prior to an adult being appointed, since August 2025. Not carrying out all vetting procedures prior to allowing staff access to children could pose a potential risk to children’s wellbeing.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

- Corrective and Preventive Action**  
(2)(a)(b)  
The required references for the adults have been obtained and validated. A copy of the references and validation forms have been provided to the Inspectorate. All recruitment procedures have been followed and implemented in service.
- (3)  
All policies in relation to validation of references have been implemented and followed in service. The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, and all vetting procedures will be followed going forward as per policy.

## **Supporting documentation submitted**

Copy of the validated references.

The Recruitment Policy.

## **Summary Comment**

Based on the corrective and preventive actions and supporting evidence submitted by the registered provider the areas of non-compliance are resolved under Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b) and (3).

## **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 the children attending the pre-school service were supervised at all times.

(3)

On the 09 October 2025 the minimum ratio of adults supervising the children was maintained at all times. Two adults worked directly with the thirteen children in attendance.

### 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.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

##### Basic Needs of Children:

The programme of care and learning took place in one care room. The registered provider and the member of staff treated the children in a kind manner. The adults sat with the children and rotated in accordance with the children's cues for assistance. Children were encouraged to be independent during play-based activities, caring for their personal belongings, while having their lunches and drinks and while using the toilet. The children engaged in predominantly tabletop activities that included peg board and threading exercises, colouring, literacy exercises, singing and repeating rhymes in Irish. Mealtime was observed to be a sociable and an unhurried occasion and the children conversed amicably with each other.

### 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 play area was secured with fencing and a gate to protect the children within.
- The children's arrival and departure times were recorded in a record book, and the children were supervised at all times during the inspection.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.

### Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lined, lidded pedal operated bins.
- The children washed their hands at regular intervals during the day.

### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given during the inspection.
- An administration of medication policy and documentation was available in the event that medication is required.

### Outing:

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

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. A fire evacuation drill had not been undertaken since the service opened in August 2025. Fire drills have not been completed on a monthly basis in accordance with the fire safety regulations. This posed a potential safety risk to both staff and children, in the event of a fire or an emergency as staff and children may be unfamiliar with evacuation routes and procedures.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. As per fire safety policy fire evacuation drills are now completed on a monthly basis. A copy of the October fire drill (two fire drills were completed in October as a result of missing September). The service will follow fire safety policy in relation to fire evacuation, drills will be carried out, completed and documented on a monthly basis. All documented fire drills will be stored in fire safety folder on premises.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. A copy of the fire drills completed in October 2025.

### Summary Comment

Based on the corrective and preventive actions and supporting evidence submitted by the registered provider the areas of non-compliance are resolved under Regulation 23 General Safety.

### 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)

Two adults working directly with the children held records of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the care room.

(b)

The first aid box was available in the service 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)

A record of completed fire drills was available. A fire drill took place in June 2025.

(b)

An up-to-date record of the number, type and maintenance service was available for the firefighting equipment. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment took place on the 05 April 2025.

(4)  
Fire action notices demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed at both entry/exit points in the building.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)  
An up-to-date record of the number, type and maintenance service was not available for the smoke alarm system. The smoke alarm system was last serviced 11 July 2024.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b)  
The smoke alarm system maintenance service has been completed on the 14 October 2025. The certificate was submitted to the Inspectorate. The smoke alarm system service will be carried out going forward, records of such maintenance will be stored on site.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(b)  
The smoke alarm system maintenance service certificate.

### Summary Comment

Based on the corrective and preventive actions and supporting evidence submitted by the registered provider the areas of non-compliance are resolved under Regulation 26(1)(b).

## 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 twenty-two children 27 March 2026.