

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR045		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Sharavogue School		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Upper Glenageary Road, Glenageary, Co. Dublin		
<b>Eircode:</b>	A96 KF80		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Betty Allen		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	24/03/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	133	PM 131
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Brunel Building Heuston South Quarter Dublin 8		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J. Mayock, O. Quill & G. Kavanagh		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors		

### 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
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

Sharavogue School is privately operated and registered to provide full day, part time and a sessional care service for pre-school children. The age range of children catered is 0-6 years. The service operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 07:45 and 18:30.

The early year's service operates from a three storey Victorian house in a residential area of Glenageary South County Dublin. Care is delivered across eleven rooms. In the main building the Baby, Wobbler, Toddler, Pre-School, and Romper rooms are located on the ground floor. The first floor caters for Montessori one, two and three. Three of the care rooms are based in two separate log cabins which are located to the rear of the service. These rooms are called T1, T2 and Montessori four. The children were allocated to different rooms depending on their age and stage of development. A separate sleep room is provided off the Baby room.

An outdoor play area equipped with a variety of suitable play equipment and defined areas of interest were available for the children to use on the premises.

### Staffing

On the day of inspection there were thirty-four adults were employed to work directly with the children. There were two people in charge available to provide relief for staff as required. The general manager was present on the day and attended the feedback meeting but does not work directly with the children. The registered provider does not work in the service.

### 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 may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations

9(1)(a)(b), (2), (3), (4)- Management and Recruitment,

11(1), (2) – Staffing Levels,

19(1)(a)(b) – Health, welfare and development of child,

23 – Safeguarding, health, safety and welfare of child,

25 – First Aid,

26 – Fire Safety Measures.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation:

19(1)(a)(b) – Health, welfare and development of child,

23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the rooms baby, wobblers, toddlers, pre-school, romper and Montessori three.

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.

### Additional Information

An immediate action notice (IAN) was issued under Regulation 23 to the registered provider on the day of inspection in relation to a safety risk identified. It is acknowledged that the registered provider immediately implemented actions to mitigate the risk identified. Please see details in the body of the report.

### Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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*

*(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)(b) The service had two people who shared the role of designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were all on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the manager it was confirmed that fourteen adults commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 16 April 2024. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a) Of the twenty-eight references that were required, twenty-four were available from a past employer and four were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for eighteen adults requiring it. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for eleven adults who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing that twelve staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. Four of these staff members who did not have a recognised qualification held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

### Non-Compliance Information

(4) Two adults working directly with the children did not have a recognised qualification or a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

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

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

Staff without a DCEDIY qualification will no longer be placed in rooms.

### Summary Comment

This regulatory requirement has been met and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were one hundred and thirty-three children attending the service being supervised by thirty four adults on the day of inspection.

### 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-*
- (b) *appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)(b) The inspectors observed appropriate and suitable care practices within the service. The service had a healthy eating policy in place, meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly throughout the day. A hot meal of chicken and potatoes was served for dinner, and an alternative of chicken curry was provided also. Mealtimes were sociable, staff were observed to sit with the children for mealtimes to support children who needed assistance with their food and engage in conversations. Drinks of water were available within the rooms and were offered at mealtimes.
- The atmosphere in the service appeared calm and relaxed. Staff demonstrated good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children in their play. Transitions within the service were

managed well and children appeared to be familiar with the daily routine. In the baby room children were settling in and the staff were very attentive to their needs and ensuring they were calm and relaxed in the room. A fully enclosed outdoor area was located to the back of the premises. A range of developmentally appropriate play equipment was provided in the outdoor play area.

### 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 kitchen and storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

##### Infection Control:

- The children washed their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and prior to eating. Liquid soap thermostatically controlled warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.
- Staff were observed to complete all the required infection control steps when changing children's nappies as per the service's nappy changing policy.
- Pedal operated bins were provided for waste as required.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers.

##### Administration of Medication:

- In the Montessori three room staff demonstrated an understanding of the appropriate measures to be taken to safeguard children if medication is required. A sample of medication records were reviewed. The forms were completed correctly including the name and dose of the medication given, written parental consent and a second person signature.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Staff demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of safe-sleep guidelines. They checked sleeping children every 10 minutes and maintained a written record of all checks completed.
- Standard cots were used for children under two years of age when sleeping.
- Room temperatures were maintained between 16 and 20° Celsius when children were sleeping.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

The inspector observed hazards which were considered a safety risk to children as follows;

- An immediate action notice was issued on 24 March 2025 as the potential risk of unauthorised persons gaining access to the premises was observed during the inspection. It is acknowledged that the RP immediately put protocols in place which inspectors deemed satisfactory to mitigate the risk. The risks observed were as followed;
  1. At 10:05am the front door entrance to the service was unlocked and the locking mechanism was damaged allowing for unauthorised potential access to the care rooms.
  2. At 10:41am the side gate to the service leading to the garden and additional care rooms in log cabins was open and allowed for potential unauthorised access.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. Should the system go offline again while waiting for an engineer visit to repair, we will dedicate a staff member to man the doors to vet all persons entering the premises.
2. The side gate was immediately locked upon notification of being open. This walkway is used by parents dropping off children and all parents are constantly notified about looking after entry and exit. An additional sign was placed on the gate to reinforce the importance of closure at all times.

### Summary Comment

This regulatory requirement has been met and will be reviewed on the next 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) Three staff members have first aid responder certification (FAR) training and were immediately available to the children attending the pre-school on the day of inspection.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) (a)

A record of monthly fire drills was available the last recorded fire drill was on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

(b) A record was maintained of when the fire detection system and smoke alarms was serviced on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Firefighting equipment records were available demonstrating that these were last serviced on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025.