

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR045
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Sharavogue School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Upper Glenageary Road, Glenageary, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A96 KF80
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Betty Allen
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date 1 of Inspection</b>	15/04/2024
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<b>Date 2 of Inspection</b>	16/04/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children: Day 1</b>	<b>AM</b>	129	<b>PM</b>	129
	<b>Day 2</b>	135		N/A

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Olivia Quill and Sarah Quigley
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors
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### 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

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 years 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 1, 2 and Pre-Montessori. 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 3. 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 15 April 2024 thirty-five adults were employed to work directly with the children. The person in charge was available to provide relief for staff as required. 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 focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(2), (4) & 11 (1) & (2), 19 (1)(a), (b), 23, 29 (d) and 30 (1),(2).

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 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

*(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

(2) The inspection focused on the recruitment records for thirteen staff who had been employed since the previous inspection dated 11 and 12 of July 2023. Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all staff employed in service.

(a) & (b) In total twenty-six written validated references were available on file. In cases where a staff member had only one previous employer a second reference from a reputable source had been obtained.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available for all staff employed in the service.

(d) International police vetting was available for six who had lived outside the state as adults for more than six consecutive months.

(4) A record was available evidencing that six staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### Non-Compliance Information

(d) International police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived outside the state as an adult for more than six consecutive months.

(4) There was no evidence available to show that seven staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held a relevant major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(d) Police Vetting received for Staff Member who had lived outside the state for more than 6 months and is now on file. Police Vetting will be obtained for any staff who have lived outside the state prior to commencement.

(4) The staff employed who did not hold a relevant major award in Early Childhood Care & Education are employed in our Afterschool. They are not included in staff ratios at any stage if they are occasionally assisting in other departments. We are engaged with numerous recruitment agencies to employ additional Early Years Educators in our Creche. We are continually sourcing and interviewing for qualified Childcare assistants to support the qualified staff in their rooms.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence.

### Summary Comment

The corrective actions as stated by the registered providers has addressed the non-compliance. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

### 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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children. On the first day of inspection there were thirty-five adults working directly with 129 children. On the second day of inspection there were thirty-three adults working directly with 135 children.
- (2) At all times the minimum required ratio of adults to children was maintained.
- (8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises 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*
  - (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)(a), (b)

Staff confirmed a cook is employed to prepare all snacks and a hot meal daily. A three weekly menu was available. At dinner time a beef and vegetable stew and mashed potato was served to the younger children and children in the Montessori rooms were served sausages, beans and mashed potato. Suitable cutlery was provided and drinking water was available. Children were provided with bibs to protect their clothing from spills. Younger children were supported to feed themselves and assistance was given as necessary by staff.

The inspectors observed the staff speaking kindly to the children at all times. Children were comforted by staff when they became upset, holding them and speaking to them in soft tones. Children's nappies were changed when needed during this time staff engaged warmly with the children. Older children went to the toilet independently while being supervised by staff.

Rooms were laid out with suitable low-level tables and chairs for meals and tabletop activities. Soft matted areas were provided for crawling and floor play. Adult seating was available in the Baby and Wobbler rooms for the staff to sit and hold infants when bottle feeding and for comforting. A variety of toys and play equipment was available to facilitate a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children.

The outdoor area was divided into different areas depending on the age of the children. Each area was well equipped with suitable play equipment and toys. All children were observed to enjoy time spent in the outdoor 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 entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. A fob key was used by staff to access the premises and for the care rooms in the log cabins to the rear of the premises.
- 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 Baby 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.
- Care plans were available for children who required specific emergency medication. Staff were familiar with the care plans and this medication was clearly labelled and safely stored out of reach of children.

### 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.

### Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

1. In the Baby room the plastic cover on the child size sofa was torn and therefore could not be cleaned effectively.
2. In the Baby sleep room one cot had no waterproof mattress protector.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

1. The cover on the child sized sofa was unable to be repaired so a new replacement sofa has been ordered. All seating areas will be included on weekly room inspection by our Compliance Manager and any torn or damaged items will be noted for repair or replacement.
2. Absent mattress protector was placed on the cot in question immediately. Baby room Staff to ensure mattress protectors are on all cots throughout the day before placing sheets on top of them.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

Written and photographic evidence submitted.

## Summary Comment

The corrective actions as stated by the registered providers has addressed the non-compliance. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

*(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

### Compliance Information

The inspection focused on actions to address previous non-compliance in the Baby, Wobbler, Toddler, Rompers and Pre-school room.

(d) The registered provider ensured the premises of the service was cleaned and maintained as required. The environment was clean, a record of cleaning completed by staff was available. In the Baby and Wobbler nappy changing area the ventilation units were free of dust.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

*(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*

*(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

### Compliance Information

The inspection focused on actions to address previous non-compliance in the Wobbler room.

(1) & (2) The minimum clear floor space requirement was maintained in the Wobbler room. Nine children are registered to attend and the space available allows for nine children aged one year to attend for full day care.