

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR184
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Name of Service:	The Teresian School (Segovia Trust)
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Address of Service:	12 Stillorgan Rd, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D04 E9X5
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rosaleen Doherty
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	30/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	38	PM	36
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	R. Brien
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

The Teresian School (Segovia Trust) is a full day care service which caters for children aged 2 to 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.

The service is part of the Teresian Junior School which is a private school located in Donnybrook, south Dublin. There are three care rooms in the service. The Pre-school 1 caters for children aged 2 to 3 years. The Pre-school 2 rooms cater for children aged 2 years 5 months to 4 years. The Pre-school 3 room caters for children aged 3 years 5 months to 5 years. There is also a dedicated sleep room. An outdoor play area is located within the grounds of the Junior School that children have access to on a daily basis.

Staffing

The service currently employs 10 staff including a manager. There were 8 staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The service also employs a cook. The registered provider does not work directly in the service and was not present on the day of inspection.

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, records, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

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

11 (1),(3),(8)(c) Staffing Levels,

16 (j) Record in Relation to Preschool Service,

19(1)(a)(b) – Health, Welfare and Development of Child,

23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,

26(1)(a)(b),(4) Fire Safety Measures.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16(k) Record in Relation to Preschool Service.

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

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

(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)(b)
The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)
The files of ten adults were reviewed as part of the inspection. This included four staff members who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 11 October 2022. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b)

Of the twenty validated, written references that were required, sixteen were available from a past employer and four were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the ten adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for four adults. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d)

Police vetting was required for six adults and was available for five adults who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4)

Records were available evidencing that the nine staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. Two staff members held letters of eligibility to practice or qualification recognition letters from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d)

Police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

This non-compliance was present on the last inspection on 11 October 2022. The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d)

The staff member has applied for National Spanish Vetting from the Spanish Embassy. Manager has looked into the acceptable Police vetting and now recognise the difference between the Spanish national and regional vetting certificates. I will ensure the correct national vetting is available before a staff member starts with us.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances. These actions will be assessed 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.

(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 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 thirty-eight children attending the service being supervised by eight adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

Compliance Information

(j)
A sample of nine medication administration records were available and were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

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)

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and staff reported that all meals are provided by the service. Children were offered a fruit snack in the morning and dinner took place at 11:30. Drinking water was available and accessible to children throughout the day and children were given water with their meals. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and staff supported younger children who needed assistance with their dinner. Additional servings of dinner were available in the care rooms. Staff were observed sitting with the children at mealtimes and engaging in conversation with children promoting a relaxed and sociable atmosphere.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Staff were observed cleaning children's faces after dinner.

Children's nappies were changed regularly, and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. There was a designated nap time after dinner for children from the Pre-school 1 and 2 rooms who required a nap.

Children were given responsibility appropriate to their age and were encouraged and supported to be independent including cleaning up after their play and meals. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's independence during play and mealtimes.

Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Staff displayed warmth and sensitivity during all interactions with the children and were observed supporting children in their play. Staff were observed to use distraction, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's behaviour policy.

Staff described how they communicate with parents regarding their child's day at arrival and collection times and through the use of an online application.

Care rooms were bright and were arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included construction areas, small world toys, home corners and imaginary play areas and rest areas with books. Care rooms provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and were adequately resourced with a variety of materials. Family photos and children's artwork were displayed in the care rooms.

The environment was laid out to support the children's independence. Low level hooks were provided for coats and bags. Play materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available in the care rooms.

There was an outdoor area located to the front of the building with shock absorbent and tarmacadam surfacing. This area is shared with the Junior School.

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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

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.
- Hand sanitisers, hazardous materials and medicines were stored safely out of reach of children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- All blind cords were secured.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and before meals.
- An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. The premises, equipment and materials appeared clean and maintained in good condition.
- Individual bed linen was provided for the children who have a nap. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered once per week.
- Children's nappies were changed in line with the service's nappy changing policy to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.
- An adult remained in the room at all times where children were sleeping.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for four staff members. However, these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Infection Control:

The inspector observed some practices which posed a risk of transmission of infection within the service:

2. There was an open bin outside the sanitary area used by Pre-school 1 which was observed with waste inside.
3. The bin in use in the Pre-school 1 room had no lid and was observed with waste inside.
4. The bin in use in the sanitary area used by Pre-school 3 had no lid and was observed with waste inside.
5. Six of the ten mattresses in use did not have a waterproof cover posing a risk of the spread of infection as they could not be adequately cleaned and disinfected.

Administration of Medication:

6. Practices in place for a child attending the service requiring emergency medication posed a potential risk to the health and safety of children. An inhaler was observed in a child's bag on the ground within reach of the children in the Pre-school 3 room. The inhaler was not stored in its original packaging.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The four staff members have been re-vetted. Manager will ensure all vetting is dated within the previous three years for all staff members.

Infection Control:

2. – 4. The broken bins have been removed, new pedal bins are in place (extra's in storage in case of broken bins in the future). Manager will ensure all broken bins are replaced immediately.

5. New stackable beds and bed linen have been purchased for the Pre-School. Manager will ensure all bedding is clean and in good repair going forward.

Administration of Medication:

6. The child's inhaler and care plan are stored out of reach of children. Manager will remind all staff of the importance of proper administration of medication procedures.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Infection Control:

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Administration of Medication:

Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances.

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 written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 19 July 2024.
 - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. There was a record to show that fire fighting equipment had been serviced in September 2023 and that quarterly maintenance of the smoke alarm system had taken place on 12 July 2024.
- (4)
- The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service