

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR186
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Name of Service:	Blossom Nursery School
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Address of Service:	The Carry Centre Holy Trinity Parish, Killiney Hill Road, Killiney, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	A96 DP11
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Name of Registered Provider:	Laura Salter, Veronica Deignan
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	20/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	5
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Level 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	R Phillips
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).

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Description of service

Blossom Nursery School is a privately owned Early Years service established in 2015. The service provides part time and sessional care to children aged 2-6 years of age and operates a play-based curriculum and Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). The service operates from a parish hall with a large open plan care room, situated in a residential area of Killiney, South County Dublin.

Staffing

There are three adults working full time in the service. The registered provider works directly with the children 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 announced 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)(2)(4) Management and recruitment,

11(1)(2) Staffing levels

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.

These findings are outlined within the regulations within this report.

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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

The early years inspector was present onsite to carry out a fit for purpose inspection in the service, for a proposed increase in numbers that the service can accommodate, from twenty to twenty-five children.

The Early Years inspector observed that the boundary fence to the front of the service, where the children play when outdoors, was in a state of disrepair. Part of the fence was leaning over posing a risk of injury to a child. This resulted in a 20cm gap through which a child may pass and leave the service unsupervised.

The state of disrepair of the fence was identified as a non-compliance on a previous inspection on 31 March 2025. The actions taken by the registered provider following the last inspection failed to prevent the risks identified to the preschool children attending the service.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN0821	20/05/2026	The boundary fence where the children play outdoors was in a state of disrepair and posed a risk of injury and of a child potentially leaving the service unsupervised. Action was taken by the registered provider following service of the notice. The registered provider submitted a written response which detailed corrective and preventative actions which were accepted by the Early Years Inspectorate.
Status	Closed.	

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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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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) There was a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.

(b) The named person in charge remained on the premises throughout the inspection.

(c) There was a clear management structure in place. The manager and staff demonstrated an awareness of their roles and lines of authority within the service.

(2) All three of the permanent staff files were inspected, and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a) (b) Appropriate consideration had been given to references for all adults. References had been sourced from their past employers. The references had a record of verification checks carried out.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all staff members. Garda vetting certificates had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorates regulatory notice, which requires services to renew garda vetting every three years.

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(d) International Police Vetting was not required for any of the staff.

(4) There was documentary evidence available to demonstrate that the three staff members held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent.

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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

(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 with the children. There were three staff members working directly with fifteen children, including the registered provider, as the person in charge.

(2)(4) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement for the age of children and type of service was always maintained.

(8) (a) There were three staff members on the premises throughout the inspection.

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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 following are examples of the measures undertaken by the registered provider and staff members to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children attending the service:

General Safety:

The entrance doors were appropriately secured which prevented children from exiting the building unsupervised and prevented unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.

Cleaning products were stored in locked cupboards out of reach of children.

Storage rooms and the kitchen were inaccessible to the children.

The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

No hazards were identified in the main care room or sanitary area.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled warm water was available in the children's sanitary facilities, liquid soap and paper towels were also available for handwashing.

The children were observed washing their hands after using the sanitary facilities and before meals.

The staff were observed cleaning the tables before the children ate and washing their own hands after supporting the children with personal care.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

See statutory notice section in relation to improvement notice IN0821 served.