

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015DS056

**Name of Service:** Naionra Tír na nÓg

**Address of Service:** Ionad an Pharóiste, Baile Phámar, Palmerstown, Dublin 20, Co. Dublin

**Eircode:** D20 K732

**Name of Registered Provider:** Grainne Ní Mhuirí

**Service type:** Sessional

**Date of Inspection:** 09/12/2025

|                                   |    |    |    |     |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 14 | PM | N/A |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|

**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** The Brunel Building,  
Heuston South Quarter,  
St. John's Road West,  
Dublin 8.

**Inspection undertaken by:** R Duff

**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

### Description of service

Naionra Tir na nÓg is a not-for-profit early years' service which was established in 2014 and has been operated by the current registered provider since July 2021. Early education and care is provided on a sessional basis to children aged from 2-6 years of age through the medium of the Irish language. The service provides one session from 9.30am to 12.30pm for 38 weeks of the year and is registered to accommodate a maximum number of twenty-two children.

The service operates from a room in a parish centre in a residential area of Dublin southwest. The children have access to a secure outdoor play area located adjacent to the pre-school room. The service also has use of a large hall for indoor play when not in use by other groups.

### Staffing

The service currently employs three staff members. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. On the day of inspection three staff members were present.

### 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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child, information and records and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The following regulations were reviewed:

Regulation 9 (1)(2)(3)(4) Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels.

Regulation 19 (1)(b) Health, welfare and development of child.

Regulation 23 Safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of child.

Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures

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 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
- (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-

- (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,

### Compliance Information

(1)

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

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.

(2)

No additional staff members have been employed in the service since the last inspection dated the 23 May 2023. Garda vetting disclosures were assessed for each of the three staff members employed in the service. The following documentation was available;

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for three staff members employed to work in the service. Garda vetting disclosures from all staff members were assessed and met compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

### 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 sessional services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 14 children attending the service being supervised by 3 staff members on the morning of the 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

The inspector observed appropriate care practices in place throughout the inspection. The children moved freely in the care room – exploring their environment, playing and engaging with each other and the staff. Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed children by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. Language used by the staff members was observed to be encouraging, supportive and informative. The service is delivered through the medium of Irish and staff were observed to support children in the use of the Irish language when speaking to adults or their peers. Children were given advance warnings to support transitions to a new activity and for mealtime. Children brought snack from home, and two children were observed to hand snacks out to the group as part of their job for the day. Drinks were readily available within the care room. Mealtime was a social occasion with children and adults sitting

together, staff provided children with help when needed. Staff were observed to cut children’s fruit into bite sized portions.

Child sized tables and chairs allowed the children to eat and engage in tabletop activities. There was evidence that equipment and materials provided were based on the children’s individual needs and emergent interests. Toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving units and accessible to children. The care room also had cushions and floor mats to facilitate rest or provide a place for children to take a break from activities. During the morning session, the children completed artwork with staff members and rehearsed songs for a Christmas show. Engagement with families and parents is facilitated by the daily sharing of information on the child’s day. This is shared through conversations at drop off and collection and supported by electronic means. On the day of inspection transitions from preschool to home were observed to be friendly and informative to parents or guardians collecting children.

### 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:

- When the inspector arrived at the service, access to the main door was monitored and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorized persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. In addition, the outdoor play area was enclosed, restricting unauthorized persons from gaining access to this area and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.
- Cleaning agents to include disinfectant sprays and liquids were stored in a locked cupboard.
- Toys and equipment in the indoors environment were maintained in good condition free from hazards.
- The outdoor area was observed to be suitable, safe and secure with domestic bins stored out of children’s reach and all outdoor play materials maintained and in good condition free from hazards.

##### Infection Control:

- Both the indoor and outdoor environment were maintained in a clean condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, and pedal operated bins.
- The children and staff members washed their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection.

##### Administration of Medication:

- The person in charge stated that the service does not administer medication to children. The administration of medication policy shared with parents on enrolment states that the service does not administer medication.

### Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff adequately detailed the procedure to safely evacuate children from the service in the event of a fire and evacuation procedures were on display in the care room.

## 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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) Documentation was available to demonstrate that fire drills were practiced monthly. The last fire drill was carried out on 11 November 2025.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment was up to date. Fire extinguishers were last serviced in April 2025 and smoke detectors were serviced in November 2025.
- (2)(c) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were available for review.
- (4) Procedures detailing the steps to take in the event of a fire were displayed on the wall in the care room.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the sessional service was insured. The insurance certificate provided for review showed cover for the 22 children and an expiry date of 27 March 2026.