

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY148
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	F/C Curaim Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch, Baile Munna, Dublin 11.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D11 NT27
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Deborah Uí Bhraonain
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	06/03/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM	10
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C Kerrigan
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Naíonra Scoil tSeachtar Laoch was established in 1986 by the current registered provider. The service is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 40 children aged 2-6 years of age.

The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and runs morning and afternoon sessions daily. The morning session runs from 08:30 until 11:30, with the second sessional group running from 11:45 until 14:45. The service is open from Monday to Friday, 38 weeks of the year, in conjunction with the school calendar. The preschool programme is taught through the medium of Irish. The preschool is located within the grounds of Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch. The service has a designated ground floor area which consists of a large care room, a small, enclosed kitchen area, sanitary facilities and a reception area. The outdoor area is located to the rear of the building.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs three staff and works in the service. On the day of inspection, the registered provider and two staff members were present providing direct care to the children.

### 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, safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 registered provider, 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.*

*(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*

*(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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.
  - (b) A review of the roster showed that a named person in charge or the deputy is rostered to be on the premises at all times during the service opening hours.
- (2) The files of four adults working within the service, to include the registered provider were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (a) The registered provider ensured that there was one written and validated reference available from a previous employer for an adult working within the service.
  - (b) The registered provider ensured that there were seven written and validated references were available from a source other than a previous employer for the adults working within the service.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all four working within the service. With the service adhering to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
  - (d) Police vetting was not needed as no adults had resided in a country other than Ireland for a period longer than six consecutive months.

- (3) The registered provider ensured that all references and Garda vetting procedures were completed prior to the four adults working within the service being allowed access or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) The register provider and the three adults who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed, held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured an adequate number of adults were working with the children in the service at all times throughout the day. Four early years staff were available in the building to meet the care needs of fifteen children who were present on the day of inspection.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that the adult to child ratios were maintained within the service on the day of inspection. This was further evidenced in the roster.

### 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

#### Compliance Information

(1) (a) The registered provider ensured that the children's learning, development and wellbeing is facilitated within the service in the following ways.

##### Basic Needs:

- Children were provided with lunch and snacks throughout their time in the service. On the morning of inspection, the children were served a selection of fruit of differing sizes, with a selection of colours and shapes, followed by sandwiches of ham and cheese and a drink of water or milk, with an alternative food option available if needed. The transition to mealtime was observed to be a timely experience for the children, at a pace that suited their needs.
- A number of children in the care room were observed to be toilet trained. Toileting was undertaken on scheduled basis and as needed; children were observed to have unrestricted access to the toilet with staff promptly picking up on children's cues for assistance, whilst providing positive praise with children's efforts. This was completely in a dignified child centred manner.
- There was a rest area available in the care room if the children needed to engage in more restful activities.
- Children were provided with appropriate clothing for outdoor play, independence with self-care skills were promoted with children being encouraged to put on hats and warm coats themselves. This promotes independence and facilitates comfort in the play experience.

##### Supporting Relationships

- The adults in the service were observed to interact with the children in a responsive, warm, respectful manner. Song, music and social story telling were tools used by adults in the service to promote children's positive behaviours. For example: Staff discussed the presence of the Inspector to the children by telling a developmentally appropriate story which was linked to their theme of the day. Therefore, ensuring children understood the presence of a stranger within their care room, and potentially reducing a child's concern.

- Adults within the service were observed to speak to each other in a warm and respectful manner.
- Staff reported an open-door policy for parents, with drop off and pick up times being utilised to share information about the children's day.

## Physical Environment and Equipment

- The furniture provided in the room was low level and appropriate for children attending with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children, displayed on low-level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- There was a range of equipment available including mark making, a home corner with associated props to facilitate imaginative play experiences, stacking, building, connecting and threading toys to facilitate creative play, cars and tracks for transporting, books and STEM activities available to facilitate language and early literacy development.
- Images of the children and their families were displayed throughout the room which promoted a sense of identity and belonging.
- The children had access to the outdoor play environment throughout the day. This is scheduled but also available to children if and when they needed. This area had absorbent flooring, a playhouse, tyres, mud kitchens, wobble boards, wooden trains, giving an array of options to develop gross motor skills.
- The outdoor area was partially enclosed allowing for play to be undertaken in inclement weather.

## 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 main entrance to the service was secure upon the inspector's unannounced arrival at the service. Access was granted via a doorbell system in which a staff member answered, therefore preventing access to the children from unauthorised persons, this also prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Hazardous materials such as cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- The ambient room temperatures in the service were kept between the recommended 18-22°C.
- The outdoor area was fully secured and enclosed with fencing and high walls.
- The flooring in the outdoor area was shock absorbent, therefore preventing injury.
- Indoor and outdoor risk assessments were displayed and completed within the service.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was clean and well maintained throughout. Cleaning schedules were on display through the service outlining frequency of cleaning.
- Toilet roll was hygienically stored and in easy reach of the children, preventing potential cross contamination.
- Thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were in use throughout the service for hand drying purposes, ensuring good handwashing practices.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medications are not routinely given within the service, but staff demonstrated knowledge on the procedure for medication administration if required.

### 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.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-*

*(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*

*(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) Three staff members present held a certification in first aid response (FAR) and were available to the children during the operational hours of the service.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position within the premises.

(b) The first aid box was readily available to the adults caring for the children attending the pre-school service.

### 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 firefighting 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) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept in writing of fire drills within the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated the 26 February 2025.

(b) A record was available indicating the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment with records demonstrating it was last serviced in June 2024, and the number, type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms throughout the service, these were last serviced on the 12 February 2024.

- (2)
- (c) The registered provider ensured that the fire drill and maintenance records were available for review by the Inspector.
- (4) A notice of procedures was displayed throughout the service indicating the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire

## 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 that the premises was adequately insured as a sessional care service for the maximum number of children registered. The certificate reviewed had an expiry date of 31 August 2025.