

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY163
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Pinewood Montessori School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	55 Pinewood Crescent, Glasnevin, Dublin 11
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D11 CC67
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Orla Long
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	13/11/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	11
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Area 1 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	T. Nelson
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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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

Pinewood Montessori School is a sessional care service located in a residential area of Dublin 11 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 16 children aged 2 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 12.45pm.

Pinewood Montessori School operates from a building to the side of a residential dwelling and had two conjoined care rooms. There are sanitary facilities located off the back care room, and a fully enclosed outdoor area is located to rear of the premises.

### Staffing

There are two staff working in the service, including the registered provider and there is a third person available to provide cover when needed. The registered provider and a staff member were present on the day of the 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, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16(1)(h)(j)(k) – Records in relation to Preschool Service.

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, 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) The registered provider ensured that:

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A review of documentation and discussion with staff showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
- (c) Staff reported being aware of their role and responsibilities.

(2) There had been no new staff employed in the service since the last inspection held on the 10 March 2024.

- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures had been obtained for the three staff members whose files were reviewed on the last inspection. The service also demonstrated 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.*
- (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.*
- (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

The registered provider ensured the following:

- (1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults available to the children attending the service to meet their care needs.
- There were 2 staff available to 11 children present on the morning of the inspection.
- (3) The adult to child ratios were maintained correctly throughout the inspection. There is a relief staff member available to provide cover when needed.
- (8)
- (a) A review of documentation showed there was a minimum of two adults on the premises during the service's operational hours.

## 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:*

*(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*

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

*(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

*(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured the following:

(h) Attendance records detailing the daily arrival and departure of the children were maintained.

(j) There was a system in place to record the administration of medication. The registered provider reported that there was no medication administered in the service since the last inspection.

(k) There was a system in place to record any incidents within the service. Following a review of the one incident which had been recorded since the last inspection the registered provider ensured this record was completed in full.

(3) The records requested were made available to the inspector during 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-

(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.

#### Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured the following:

(a) The children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated by the following interactions, activities, materials and equipment:

- Children had the freedom to move freely through the care rooms, independently choosing activities.
- Children's drinks were easily accessible and freely available.
- Staff were observed to interact with the children in a warm, respectful manner. Each child was greeted on arrival, by using the child's name and asking how they were.
- Staff were familiar with the children and their interests. This can facilitate a more enriched play experience for children by introducing props based on the child's interests. For example, a child was looking for a costume for roleplay, and the staff member was able to direct the child immediately to what they were looking for.
- Staff were observed to play alongside children, and check in on their progress, without directing the play. This promoted confidence in independent play.
- Positive verbal and nonverbal strategies such as low tones, modelling appropriate behaviour, encouragement and praise were observed. These strategies can facilitate emotional and social development in young children.
- The registered provider reported that parents are informed on the child's activities and experiences by updates on an online software application, and through conversation at drop off and collection.
- Documented learning plans were available, and these were reflective of the products of children's art which were displayed in the rooms.
- The toys and equipment were displayed on low level shelving, visible to the children, and were grouped in themed areas of interest such as home area, role play, art area, mark making, construction, sensory, and library areas. Themed areas of interest facilitate children to have a more focused engagement in their play experiences.

- Each of the themed interest areas were well resourced with a wide range of props, materials and accessories available to the children, including a range of paint, and sand play.

### 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 measures were observed to be taken to safeguard children:

##### General Safety:

- A tall shelving unit was observed to be secured to the wall.
- The main door to the service was secured by a key lock system which was managed by staff, and the internal door to the hallway was observed to be secured with a latch which was out of reach of children. This restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Cleaning products were observed to be out of reach of children.
- Blind cords were secured, and windows were fitted with restrictors.
- Radiators were observed to be either fitted with guards in place or were thermostatically controlled.
- The television was observed to be securely mounted to the wall.

##### Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water and liquid soap was available at all sinks used by children and staff.
- The sanitary area was observed to be clean with an appropriate nappy change mat available for use.
- Children were supported to handwash.
- Children's lunches from home were appropriately refrigerated.
- Foot pedal operated lidded bins were available throughout the premises.

##### Fire Safety:

- The procedures and route to be used in the case of an emergency evacuation was displayed in a prominent position in the care room.
- A review of records showed fire drills were carried out monthly, with the last drill carried out on the 21 October 2025.

### 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) The registered provider presented evidence that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

(2) The registered provider ensured that:

(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in the care room, visible to staff and out of reach of children.

(b) The first aid box was easily accessible and readily available.