

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY192
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	St. Finbar's Playschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	St. Finbar's Boys N.S., Kilkiernan Road, Cabra, Dublin 7, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D07 T3F1
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Marion Rooney
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	13/02/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	30	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Child and Family Agency Unit 4& 5 Nexus Building Block 6A Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á Dunne
<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

St. Finbar's Playschool is a community service which operates from St. Finbar's Boys National School in the urban area of Dublin 7. The service provides sessional care and education to children aged from 2 years 6 months to 6 years of age and operates from 9.15am to 12:15pm Monday to Friday. The service is situated on the first floor of the school and consists of three care rooms Room 1, Room 2 and Room 3, an indoor playroom, a staff room and sanitary facilities for staff and children. An outdoor grass area is available to the side of the school.

### Staffing

The registered provider works in the service and employs nine staff members - one relief staff when required and eight staff who work directly with the children. One of these staff members is employed in a post funded by the Minister under the Access and Inclusion Model scheme for children with additional needs. One student was present as part of Transition Year work experience programme 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, health, welfare and development of child, safety, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, 25 and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29 premises. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child. The scope of the inspection included the three care rooms and the indoor playroom.

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

*(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

The files for the registered provider, nine adults and one student on transition year work experience programme were requested for review,

(2)(a) Nine validated written references were available from a past employer.

(b) Eleven validated written references were available from a source other than a previous employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for ten adults employed in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no adult employed in the service had lived outside of the state for six consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to demonstrate that registered provider and seven adults working directly with children in the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications

## Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b) Two written and validated references were not available for the student on a Transition Year work experience programme.

(4) Documentation was not available to demonstrate that two adults working directly with children in the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b) Two written references were requested for validation for student on Transition work experience programme. Going forward, two written and validated references and CV will be kept on file for all students. The registered provider has notified LCA co-ordinator in school that students must have these documents before they can be allowed to begin their work experience.

(4) One staff member is awaiting a full cert from the college where they completed their Level 6 qualification. The second staff member has submitted a complete record of her modules to DCDE for qualification recognition and is awaiting a decision.

### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)(b) One written and validated reference from a reputable source

(4) Communications endeavouring to gain full cert from college and endeavouring to gain qualification recognition from the DCDE.

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The two non-compliances have not been adequately addressed as a second reference for the student and documentation to confirm that two staff hold a minimum qualification/recognised qualification have not been submitted to date. The non compliances remain unaddressed and will be reviewed 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.*

*(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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children in the service during the inspection. On the day of inspection there were 8 staff and 1 student caring for 30 children aged from 2 to 6 years of age.

(3) It was observed that the correct adult to child ratio was maintained in the following care rooms during the inspection.

- Room 1 there were 2 adults working directly with 10 children aged between 2 to 6 years of age.
- Room 2 there were 3 adults directly with 12 children aged between 2 to 6 years of age.
- Room 3 there was 2 adults working directly with 8 children aged between 2 to 6 years of age.

The registered provider was available to support in all of the care rooms and the student was also present as part of work experience in a supernumerary capacity in room 2.

### 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

##### Basic Needs:

- Lunchtime was at 11.35 am for the children who attend the sessional service. The children's water bottles were available for the children to drink from the fridges in each room.
- Lunchtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable event, with children given time to sit at low tables appropriate to their age. Children were observed to eat independently, but staff were on hand to help as required, supporting independence and wellbeing.
- Toilet visits were completed before lunchtime and as needed to ensure each child's comfort.
- Children had access to the indoor playroom area during the day of inspection.

##### Supporting relationships:

- The staff interacted with the children in a respectful, warm and sensitive manner. The atmosphere within the service remained calm and pleasant throughout the inspection.
- Staff sat with and interacted playfully with the children during lunchtime and activities of painting, playdough, connects, jigsaws and wooden puzzles, playing with sand as a sensory play and playing in the home corner with the play kitchen.

##### Physical and Material Environment:

- The classrooms were bright and laid out in a variety of designated areas of interest for the children with activities.
- The materials and equipment provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present. Children had the freedom to choose from materials and equipment available to them.
- Low level shelving and child sized furniture supported children's independence.
- A cosy area was present in all three rooms, offering a quiet comfortable area for children to rest and relax during the day on soft mat and cushions.

- The indoor play area was available and consisted of soft mats, a slide, a plastic tunnel, a seesaw and two beanbags for indoor gross motor play.
- The outdoor area available had a grass surface and surrounding fence.

### 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 entrance to the service was secure with a secure service entry door, monitored by staff. This reduced the risk of unauthorised access or the unsupervised exit of a child. The outdoor area was fully enclosed and secure.
- The pre-school children were supervised at all times during the session.
- The play equipment and materials in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good condition.
- The temperatures of the care rooms were recorded within the recommended ambient temperature of 18 to 22 °C.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children and no trailing flexes were observed.

##### Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Children were supported and encouraged to wash their hands after indoor play, before lunch time and after toilet visits.
- Children's lunches which are brought from home were stored in a fridge to prevent spoiling of perishable item.
- Tables were cleaned in preparation for lunch, by the staff.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were available for waste disposal.

##### Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.

### 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 service provided evidence that seven adults trained in First Aid Response were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

(2) (a) (b) A first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in each classroom of the service and was available to the children in the service at all times

### 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.*

*(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 reviewed by the inspector for fire drills completed and the last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on the 14 January 2026.

(b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment available demonstrated they were last serviced 13 January 2026 and for smoke alarms demonstrated were last serviced on 16 December 2025.

(4) The fire drill procedure was displayed on the wall of the care room and observed by the Inspector.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

### Non-Compliance Information

(d) The walls in the indoor playroom were damaged and in poor repair with holes and exposed chipped paint.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(d) The walls in the playroom were sanded, cleaned and freshly painted.

The registered provider will ensure all maintenance work is completed in a timely manner.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(d) Photographic Evidence

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the action and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 29, has been adequately addressed.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

*(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*

*(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

### Compliance Information

(1) (3) On inspection an additional room, the indoor playroom was in use, measurements of the room were completed. The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in this room – the Indoor Playroom for the play and gross motor movement of children attending the service.

The table below illustrates that the minimum clear floor space was available for the indoor play room .

Room Name	Floor space required per child	Floor space available as measured by inspectors
Indoor Playroom	1.818 sqm per child (aged 2 to 6 years)	41.106 sqm