

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY249
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Name of Service:	St. Michael's Preschool & Afterschool Service
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Address of Service:	St. Michael's School, Kylemore Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D10 YK84
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Name of Registered Provider:	Maria Bourke
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	19/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	39	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	L Magee
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	N/A
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Description of service

St. Michael's Preschool & Afterschool Service is a community-based service which operates from St. Michael's Primary School in a residential area on the south side of Dublin city. The service provides sessional care to children aged from 2 to 6 years and operates from 8:50am to 11:50am, Monday to Friday, from September to June. The service has two pre-school care rooms and an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There were ten adults present on the day of the inspection. All ten adults were working directly with the children. The registered provider is the principal of St Michaels Primary school.

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 reoccurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform

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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-

- (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

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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 person in charge and a named person who was available to deputise as required.
 - (b) At all times during the inspection the designated person in charge was on the premises.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure that identified the roles of authority and staff were familiar with this and their own roles and responsibilities.
- (2) The inspection focused on files for two adults including a student who was present on work placement and are detailed as follows:
- (a) Two written validated references were available from past employers.
 - (b) One written validated reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for these two staff members. Eight garda vetting disclosures remained in date since the last inspection dated 15.October 2025. The service did adhere to the re-vetting time frames as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) International Police vetting was not required as neither adult had lived outside the state for a period of longer than 6 months as an adult.
- (4) One new adult who required a qualification held a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a)&(b) One staff member required an appropriate second validated reference.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)
- (a&b) One reference was received and validated from a past employer for this adult. Going forward, all staff or students will have two references available before they start.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was reviewed.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the service have addressed the non-compliance. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children when the inspector arrived unannounced at the service. There were ten staff members working directly with 39 children.

(3) The minimum adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were ten adults working directly with thirty-nine pre-school children on the day of inspection.

(8) (c) Two adults were on the premises at all times.

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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

(1) (b)

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed on the day of inspection as evidenced below:

The staff sat with the children while they ate their lunch in a nice, relaxed environment. A morning snack is provided by the service while lunch is sent in from home. Drinks were always available to the children. Staff supported the children to use the toilet and wash their hands with an appropriate balance of independence and supervision. Staff demonstrated warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children. Soft furnishings were provided to facilitate children to rest during the day when required. Children were observed to enjoy time spent in the outdoor play area moving freely and engaging in different games with staff.

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:

External gates and doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. Heavy equipment was secured to prevent tipping and injury. Emergency exits were kept clear at all times during the inspection.

Infection Control:

The premises were observed to be maintained in a clean condition. Completed cleaning schedules were in place demonstrating the daily and weekly procedures taken by the service. Steps were taken to prevent the spread of infection through the use of good hygiene practices such as the supervision of children's hand washing and respiratory hygiene. The sanitary facility was equipped with warm water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels.

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Administration of Medication:

Emergency medication was available for two children with parental consent and was stored in its original packaging in the care room. Care plans were available and staff demonstrated an awareness of the procedures to take to ensure this medication is given safely if needed.

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) A person trained as a First Aid Responder (FAR) was immediately available to the children on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was provided. It was positioned in an easily accessible and conspicuous position, in each preschool room.

(b) The first aid box is available to the children attending the pre-school 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 fire fighting 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.

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Compliance Information

- (1)(a) A written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on 5 March 2026.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of the smoke alarms on the premises was available. The smoke alarm system records were dated 19 January 2026.
- (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (b) There was no record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The person in charge has set up a system to remind them when the fire certificates need to be renewed.

Supporting documentation submitted

A record of the firefighting equipment was reviewed.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the service have addressed the non-compliance. The regulatory requirement has been met.