

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY251
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Community Pre-School Playgroup
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Mourne Road National School, Mourne Road, Cumlin, Dublin 12.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D12 CF5X
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Chris Kerrigan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	26/02/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	28	PM	28
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S Quigley
<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

Community Preschool Playgroup is a not-for-profit early years service which was first established in 1983 by the current registered provider. The service offers an Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) on a sessional basis to pre-school children aged 3 to 6 years. The programme of care is facilitated through a play-based curriculum. The service operates Monday to Friday on a school calendar basis from 09:00am to 12:30pm. The early years service is located within Our Lady of Good Counsel Girls' National School in a residential urban area of Crumlin, south Co Dublin. The service is facilitated across two open plan rooms within the primary school. An outdoor area is available on the premises.

### Staffing

The service currently employs five staff members including the registered provider who works directly in the service. On the day of inspection all five 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 area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ information and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child.

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.*

*(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

No new adults had been employed to work in the service since the last date of inspection on the 16 November 2023. The requirements for Regulation 9(2)(3)(4) were met during previous inspections of the service in respect of the registered provider and the other four adults currently employed in the service. Therefore, the inspection of Regulation 9 was limited to the requirements detailed in 9(2)(c), the findings were as follows:

Garda vetting disclosures from The National Vetting Bureau were available for the five adults employed. The service 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 28 pre-school children attending the service being supervised by 5 adults during the inspection.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)  
A sample of documentation was reviewed by the inspector in respect of twelve children in attendance to assess compliance relating to the records of preschool children maintained in the service. The sample of documentation reviewed evidenced that records were kept in writing in respect of pre-school children attending the service detailing the information outlined under Regulation 15(1)(a) to (i).

### 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

The inspector observed that the children’s learning, development and well-being was supported by the staff and the environment. The routine in place afforded the children the opportunity to engage in child-led play. The children moved freely in both care rooms, accessing interest areas and playing alone and in groups as desired. Staff engaged positively with the children and acted in a supportive role, using prompts to extend the children’s play and learning. The indoor areas were laid out to support the children’s independence with a variety of equipment and materials accessible on open shelving units. Low level hooks with photographs were provided for personal belongings. There were clearly defined interest areas including construction, dress up, home areas, and spaces for arts and crafts and messy play. Areas with soft seating were available for children to rest or take a break from activities. Children’s identity and belonging was promoted through art displays and photograph walls. Staff demonstrated an awareness of the children’s dispositions, and recorded children’s emerging interests to enhance play and learning experiences. Lunch and a morning snack were provided by the service and staff sat with the children engaged in conversation while they ate. Drinks of water were always available. Children were supported to be independent in assisting in tasks in the classrooms and using the toilet independently.

### 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 inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with the registered provider, and inspection of the premises that the following steps were taken to safeguard children attending:

#### General Safety:

The entrance door into the primary school and the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons gaining access or children exiting unsupervised. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. There were no hazards identified in the classrooms or outdoor play area.

#### Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Pedal-operated, lidded bins were in place to appropriately manage waste. Staff practiced good handwashing and supported children to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet, and before lunch. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff members outlined that appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

### **Administration of Medication:**

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of temperature reducing medication, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff members detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector.

### **Fire Safety:**

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.