

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015DY277 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Kimmage Montessori School |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | 11 Devenish Road, Kimmage, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin |
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| <b>Eircode:</b> | D12 F8X3 |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Philomena Ryan |
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| <b>Service type:</b> | Part Time, Sessional |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 22/10/2025 |
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|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|---|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 22 | PM | 2 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|---|

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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>                | Sarah 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).

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

Kimmage Montessori is a privately owned service which was established in 1999 by the current registered provider. The early years service offers an Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme on a part-time and sessional basis to children aged 2-6 years. The service is currently registered to operate from 8:45 to 13:45 and from 12:30 to 15:30 each weekday on a school calendar basis. The programme of care is facilitated through blend of a Montessori and play based curriculum. Kimmage Montessori is located in a residential area of Kimmage, South County Dublin. The early years service is provided across two preschool rooms within a purpose-built premises attached to a domestic dwelling, which is the registered provider's home. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is situated to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The service currently employs seven staff members who work directly with the children, including the registered provider and a staff member who provides relief cover. On the day of inspection, six staff members including the registered provider and an adult providing relief cover 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/ information and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 – Records 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

(2)

Following a discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that three adults had commenced working in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023. Documentation required under regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of these three adults as detailed below. The requirement of regulation 9(2)(c) was assessed for all seven adults employed to work in the service.

- (a) (b) There were two references available for one of the staff members, and one reference available for one of the staff members, which had been appropriately verified.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all seven adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
  - (d) International police vetting was available for two of the adults who required it.
- (4) The three adults newly employed held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a) (b)

- There were no references available for one staff member who was employed to work in the service.
- The second reference available for one staff member had not been appropriately verified by the registered provider.

(3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had been carried out prior to the three adults commencing employment in the service, as detailed above.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

Validated references are now on file for the staff members. Moving forward these will be completed prior to the staff members commencing employment.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

#### Summary Comment

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.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof 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

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were fifty-five children present in the service being supervised by eight adults during the inspection. The person in charge and the area manager provided relief cover to the care rooms when required and were rostered to do so.
- (8) (a) There were two staff members on the premises for during the opening hours of the service.

### 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 twelve records of preschool children maintained in the service were reviewed by the inspector to assess compliance. The documentation reviewed evidenced that each of the twelve records detailed the required information 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-*

- (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

The inspector observed appropriate care practices in place in the service during the inspection.

The routine and play experiences in the service were observed to be mostly child-led, and children were visibly content and engaged in their play-based activities throughout the inspection. All materials were made accessible to the children at a low level facilitating their choice in play. Staff demonstrated an awareness of the needs of the children during conversations with the inspector.

Kindness and warmth were observed by the inspector during interactions between staff and the children, and adults availed of opportunities to engage in personal one on one conversations with the children throughout the inspection. Comfort was provided promptly to a child if they became upset. Staff remained engaged with the children throughout the inspection, sitting with them and using prompts to extend learning, play, and conversations. The children all spent time outdoors and were dressed appropriate to the weather. Staff encouraged the children to be independent in their environment by allocating tasks including cleaning up following meals and play.

Drinks were accessible to the children throughout the inspection and rest areas were in place to enable the children to take time out from the group if desired. Children accessed the toilets independently during the inspection.