

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY342
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Name of Service:	School St & Thomas Court Bawn FRC L
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Address of Service:	School Street, Pimlico, Dublin 8, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Fintan Brunkard
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	24/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	48	PM	47
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne & E Hosford
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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	Not Applicable.
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Description of service

School Street and Thomas Court Bawn Family Resource Centre is a community service which is situated in an urban area of Dublin 2. The service currently operates from 8.15am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday, which is within its registered operating hours of 8.15am to 5.30pm. It offers full-day, part-time and sessional childcare to children aged from 0 to 5 years of age and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service operates from a purpose built premises which has five care rooms. The care rooms are; Baby Room, Wobbler Room on the ground floor and Toddler Room 1, Toddler Room ECCE and Pre-school Room on the first floor. There is a designated sleep room adjacent to the Baby Room with seven standard cots, a kitchen, an office and a play therapy room. Two enclosed outdoor play areas are located one to the rear of the service and one to the side of the service accessed by the Baby room.

Staffing

The registered provider is the service manager and employs 19 staff to work in the service to include the person in charge, 17 childcare staff and a cook. On the day of Inspection, the registered provider, the person in charge, 13 childcare staff, 2 students on an educational work experience programme and a cook 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 and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 25, and 26.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16 Record in relation to Preschool service (j), (k), under Regulation 19 Health, welfare and development of child, Regulation 23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of child. Regulation 11 Staffing levels was assessed across all rooms.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included Baby room, Wobbler room 1, Toddler 1 and Toddler ECCE and did not include the Preschool room.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff, students 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 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 registered provider ensured there was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The registered provider and the designated person in charge were on the premises when the inspector's arrived unannounced to the service and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.
- (2) It was confirmed by the registered provider that no new staff members have been employed in the service since the last inspection on the 10 June 2024 but that two students were on educational work experience

programme in the service on the day of inspection. The files of the registered provider and of two students under the age of 18 years were reviewed as part of the inspection along with Garda Vetting disclosure for one staff member whose file was reviewed on the last inspection.

(b) The Registered Provider had two written references from a reputable source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for two adults. The service had adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) No evidence of qualifications was required in relation to the files reviewed.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b) Two written and validated references were not available for the two students on education experience programme in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b) The college of the two students were contacted and references received and validated. A students folder checklist has been created similar to the checklist created for staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)(b) photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 has been addressed.

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) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

On the morning of the inspection there were 12 adults working directly with 43 children aged between birth to 6 years and in the afternoon of the inspection there were 11 adults working with 40 children aged from birth to 6 years.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection as the table below demonstrates.

Room Name	Age profile	Morning	Afternoon
Baby room	1 year to 2 years	2 Adults with 6 children	2 adults with 6 children
Wobbler room	2 years to 3 years	4 adults with 14 children	3 adults with 14 children
Toddler 1 room	2 years to 3 years	2 adults with 11 children A student was also present in the room.	2 adults with 10 children
Toddler ECCE room	2 years 6 months to 4 years	2 adults with 9 children. A student was also present in the room.	2 adults with 9 children

Preschool room	4 years to 5 years	2 adults with 8 children	1 adult with 8 children
Total	(0-6 years)	12 adults and two students with 48 children	10 adults with 47 children.

The designated person in charge and two staff were available in a supernumerary capacity and covered in rooms as required.

(8)(a) On review of the service roster it was observed that two adults were on the premises during the operation of the service.

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;
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

- (h) Staff recorded the daily attendance of each child to the service on an electronic application.
- (i) The service maintained a weekly staff roster to reflect the staff present in the service and their planned breaks.

Non-Compliance Information

- (k) On review of 14 accident and incident forms information was missing as follows:
 - The date of the parent's signature was missing from six forms.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

16(k) The service will inform parents and guardians that dates must be included beside signatures on accident sheets. The accident / incident book has been labelled with instructions to complete ten-point checklist for staff to double check to ensure accident / incident sheets are completed correctly. Staff are not allowed give copy of accident sheet unless fully completed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic Evidence and Staff meeting agenda.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 16 has been addressed.

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:

- The service provided meals and snacks at regular intervals and a hot meal to the children. On the day of inspection, a hot meal of spaghetti bolognese with an alternative of potatoes, carrots, broccoli and gravy was served between 11.15am and 11.30am in the Wobbler and Toddler care rooms cooked on site by the chef. Staff confirmed that there is a snack at 1.30 pm and teatime was at 3.00pm each day.
- Water was available in each care room for the children to drink.
- The transitions between activities such as nappy changes, sleep time, mealtimes, free play and outdoor play were observed to be calm and relaxed with staff available to care for the individual needs of the children.
- Children were observed to enjoy outdoor play during the inspection.
- Children's need for sleep and rest were met through the provision of comfortable rest areas available. Cots and low beds with individual bedding were available to the children who required sleep. At sleep time the rooms were darkened and soft music played to provide for a restful environment.

Supporting relationships:

- Staff were observed to have respectful, warm and responsive interactions with the children through the use of soft tones and positive non-verbal communication strategies such as being at the children's level.

- Staff were observed to be engaged with the children during play time indoors and outdoors and having positive interactions during play activities.
- Staff members supported each other in the provision of care to the children.
- Communication with parents is through verbal updates at drop off and pick each day and also through electronic mail when required.

Physical and Material Environment:

- 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.
- Cosy areas were present in all rooms offering a quiet comfortable area for children to rest and relax during the day.
- The outdoor play environment to the rear of the premises was fully enclosed with an artificial grass surface with a playhouse and slide, a climbing wall frame, bikes, trikes, ride ons, ride ins, hula-hoops, push along toys.

Non-Compliance Information

Physical and Material Environment

1. In the Wobbler room the condition of the books accessible to children were poor. Of five books present one book had missing pages and only the covers of two books were present.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Books in the wobbler room have been replenished. In the staff meetings held every 6 weeks, staff are asked if materials need to be replenished during each meeting. Each room has been appointed a "Room librarian" to ensure book stocks are not depleted.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Proof of Purchase of new books and staff meeting agenda.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 19 has been addressed.

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:

- On the inspectors unannounced arrival at the service, the main door was secure with access monitored and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- The outdoor area was a safe and secure environment with play equipment and materials clean and suitable for use by the children.
- A weekly roster reflected the staff present in the service.
- Fifteen mattresses had safety labels and washable wipeable surfaces.
- Blind cords of blinds on windows were secure.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- The kitchen was not accessible to the preschool children during the service operating hours.

Infection Control:

- The service was observed to be visibly clean.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled water, soap and paper towels and pedal operated lidded bins for disposal of paper waste.
- In the baby and wobbler rooms, soothers were stored in individual labelled boxes.
- During sleep time, cots in the cot room and low stackable beds in the Wobbler room were positioned with the recommended 50 centimetres between each child.
- Sheets and blankets are stored in labelled individual bags for each child.

Safe Sleep:

- Shoes and clothing were removed from children while they slept.
- Ten-minute sleep checks were completed on the children for colour, breathing, position while children slept.
- Temperature of the cot room and of the Wobbler room were recorded by staff during sleep time, using thermometers present in each room.

- While children slept, the temperature of the cot room and wobbler room recorded by the inspectors were between the recommended temperature of 18-22 °C for children over the age of one year.

Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.
- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. In the Baby, Wobbler and Preschool sanitary facilities, the paper towel roll was not stored in a dispenser and observed to be sitting out on the counter increasing the likelihood of cross contamination, therefore impacting infection control practices. This was a non-compliance on the last inspection 10 June 2024. The corrective action has not been sustained.
2. An apron was not worn by a staff member during nappy changing and this is not in accordance with the service policy, leading to poor infection control.

Safe Sleep:

3. One child from the Wobbler room, under two years of age was observed to be sleeping on a low stackable bed. Parents were not fully included in the decision and no parental consent was approved as Sleep Risk Assessment for this child was not completed in full by the service. This is at variance to the best practice sleep guidelines issued by Tusla to the sector in September 2023.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The service has purchased portable paper towel dispensers, and all hand towels will be held in these dispensers going forward.
2. The nappy changing policy will be reviewed during the staff meeting on the 8 April 2025 and the service have displayed laminated nappy changing policies and procedures in the changing areas

Safe Sleep:

3. Sleep plan created and has been added to children's onboarding documents. All team members have been notified about sleep plans.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Photographic evidence

2. Photographic Evidence

Safe Sleep:

3. Sleep plan submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been addressed.

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 four adults trained in First Aid Response were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and safely stored in easily accessible and conspicuous positions in each care room in the service.

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 available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 13 January 2025.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment demonstrating it was last serviced on the 10 April 2024 and for the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarms in the premises, which were last serviced on the 16 October 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises.