

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY394
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Alexandra College Pre-School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Milltown Road Milltown Dublin 6w County Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D06 X520
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Avril Lamplugh
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	11/12/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	28	PM	13
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Loughlinstown Health Centre Loughlinstown drive County Dublin A96P3Y6
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Olivia Quill and Roisin Phillips
<b>Title:</b>	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

### Description of service

Alexandra College Pre-School is registered to provide full daycare, part-time and sessional care to children aged 2-6 years. The service is privately owned and operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 – 18:00. The service is located on the grounds of Alexandra junior and secondary school in Milltown, south county Dublin. Two care rooms are provided named Pre School lower located in the main school building and Pre-School upper located in a wooden structure on the grounds of the school. Children attending on a full day care basis move to the afterschool room from 3pm – 6pm. The service has access to a large outdoor play area with a rubber tile surfacing.

### Staffing

In total seven staff are employed in the service. On the 12 of December 2024 four staff worked directly with the children. The registered provider worked directly with the children in the afternoon.

### 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

The inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of *governance, information and records and safety*. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

9 (1)(a)(b), (2)(a) -(d), (4) Management and Recruitment

11(1), (2), (8)(a) Staffing Levels

16 (1) (i) Record in relation to pre-school service

21 Equipment and materials

27 Supervision

30 Minimum space requirements

32 Complaints

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under regulation 20 Facilities for rest and play and regulation 23 Safety. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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.

### Additional Information

This inspection was triggered following information received by the Early Years Inspectorate on the 28 November 2024.

### Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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

(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

(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,
- (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 was the designated person in charge and a named person was available to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present at all times until the service closed.

(2) The inspection included a review of files for new staff employed since the last inspection on the 14 September 2023 and Garda vetting disclosures were inspected for all staff employed to work directly with the children.

From a review of the records and having spoken to the registered provider it was confirmed one new staff member was employed as detailed below.

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

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for seven staff members. Six of these were dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available as required for the new staff member.

(4) Records were available evidencing the staff member who was employed to work directly with the children held at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education.

### 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. There were twenty eight pre-school children attending the service being supervised by four adults.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured at least two adults are on the premises at all times.

## 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:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

#### Compliance Information

(1) (i) A staff roster was available.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1) (b) Adequate and suitable rest facilities were not provided in the afterschool room which was used by the pre-school children from 3-6pm. There was no facility available for a child to lie down if required and the designated rest area consisted of a small rug which did not accommodate all the children present.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b) The registered provider purchased two nap mats for the afterschool rooms. The nap mats will be on the shelf at all times in case they have to be used. New, larger mats were bought and put into the aftercare area for the children to play on. Mats will be checked regularly and replaced when required.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence.

## Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

## Compliance Information

Adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment were available on the premises. The pre-school rooms and the afterschool room were furnished with age-appropriate table and chairs. The rooms were arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the opportunity to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included home corner, dress up, construction area, musical instruments, art materials and chalkboards. Each area was adequately resourced with a variety of materials. The materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. A good selection of age-appropriate books were available in the care rooms.

## 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

A Garda vetting disclosure available for one staff member was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

For one staff member – garda vetting form was sent off for renewal on 19/12/2024. All garda vetting forms are in one central area now and dates on them will be checked regularly to ensure that they are all within the previous 3 years.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

Written records.

#### Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

Children were directly supervised by staff members in both the indoor and outdoor play environments at all times during the inspection.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) Adequate clear floor space was available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

### Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

#### Regulation 32 – Complaints

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the pre-school service, and*
- (b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall-*

- (a) include the nature of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with, and*
- (b) be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

- (2) (a), (b) The registered provider demonstrated a written record of complaints is maintained. The complaint was dealt with as per the complaints policy.
- (3) (a), (b) The registered provider stated a staff meeting was held after receiving the complaint and a copy of the minutes of the meeting was shown to the inspectors as evidence.