

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015KE065

Name of Service Kildare Steiner School

Address of Service: Rathargid, Gormanstown, Dunlavin, Co. Kildare W91CR24

Email Address: info@kildaresteinerschool.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Michelle Mc Farland

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: Changing the current location of the pre-school building to an adjacent building at the same address.

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: The proposed new premises meets the regulatory requirements to relocate the pre-school on the current site/address.

Registered change: Changing the current location of the pre-school building to an adjacent building at the same address.

Date of Inspection: 2 5 0 8 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: F. Maher

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Child and family Agency
Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road,
Naas, Co. Kildare W91X38W

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Part-Time & Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	3 rd September 2025

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	<p>Kildare Steiner Kindergarten is a private pre-school service established in 2006. Part-time and sessional care and education is offered to pre-school children aged 2-6 years of age. The service opens from 09:00hrs-13:00hrs Monday to Friday.</p> <p>The Steiner philosophy of education is practiced with an emphasis on a play-based curriculum including nature and outdoor play and activities.</p>
Premises	<p>The proposed new premises is a single-story building comprising of two spacious pre-school rooms with sanitary and nappy change facilities.</p> <p>The large garden/outdoor play area remains unchanged as the proposed premises is situated adjacent to the previous pre-school building.</p> <p>Car park is available on site.</p>
Staffing	<p>A sufficient number of adults are currently employed in the service and hold qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.</p>
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity; completeness; and compliance with</p>

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the deputy person in charge and school administrator 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a)

The service has a named person to deputise in the absence of the person in charge. Evidence that the change in circumstances process, appointing a named person in charge, was in progress was available.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)

A sufficient number of staff members are appointed to ensure the required adult:child ratios are maintained.

(8)(a)(c)

Not applicable as this is not a childminding or single handed service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

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Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

- (1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—
- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and
 - (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day.
- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—
- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a)

The proposed new premises provides two large pre-school rooms which are designed to encourage a creative and imaginative environment for the children. All materials and equipment available are open-ended items such as material, wool, pinecones, shells, scarves, sewing and baking materials, baskets and a variety wooden materials and structures. There is adequate play and learning equipment to promote numeracy and literacy skills. Low level tables and chairs were provided for tabletop activities and eating snack.

(b)

For a period of rest or relaxation the children can avail of individual sheepskin rugs that provide a comfortable soft area to sit or to take a break from activities. A low-level bed is available for any child wishing to sleep when attending the part time service with appropriate bed linen in place. The service has a safe sleep policy in place to guide practice.

The outside play area which is unchanged is safe and secure. The perimeter is enclosed by wooden fencing and gates. The play area has various interest areas incorporated into the natural environment and include a large sand pit, willow structures and trees which provide imaginative play spaces, a swing set, logs and a wooden outdoor kitchen.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

The service provides the snacks and food for the children on a daily basis.

A counter-top fridge is available for the storage of any perishable items. Drinking water is available in the service and will be available at all times for the children.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

The main entrance door to the proposed pre-school is secure and is controlled by staff to prevent any pre-school child from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised people from gaining access to the premises. The double doors in each of the proposed pre-school rooms that exit to the outdoor area to the rear have a thumb-turn locking mechanism to secure from the inside. The built-in kitchen unit in the proposed pre-school room 1 has been cordoned off with a fixed barrier to prevent children accessing this space.

The outdoor area remains unchanged and is suitably secure and is fully surrounded by wooden fencing at a suitable height to prevent a child climbing over and leaving the service and two wooden gates with latch locking mechanisms the children cannot access from the inside.

Storage is available for the safe storage of cleaning products and equipment, and cupboards are secure with child proof mechanisms fitted.

There is storage space in the entrance hall for the children to store their coats and bags and there is storage for staff belongings.

All fire exits in the proposed building are unobstructed and easily recognisable. The fire assembly point is displayed in the outdoor area.

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There is provision for the appropriate disposal of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in the proposed pre-school rooms and sanitary area.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted dispensers are available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Nappy sacks, disposable gloves and plastic single use disposable aprons are available for hygienic nappy changing practices should it be required.

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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)

Current certification in relation to first aid response (FAR) is available for one staff member currently working in the service. A second staff member located in the primary school building on site is also trained in first aid response. The second appointed pre-school staff member has certification in first aid.

(2)(a)(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box is available and accessible to children and stored in a conspicuous position in the entrance hall of the proposed new building.

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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.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>Documentation is available with up-to-date recordings for monthly fire drills completed.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>The firefighting equipment and smoke/fire detection alarm system were serviced September 2024 and 23 July 2025 respectively.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was clearly displayed within the service.</p>
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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 1 September 2025. The insurance provided cover for 46 children.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,
- (b) safe and secure,
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(a)

The proposed new building has recently been assessed and certified by a competent person and a compliance report submitted to the registration office 22 August 2025.

(b)

The main entrance door to the proposed pre-school is secure and is controlled by staff to prevent any pre-school child from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. The outdoor area has remained unchanged and is suitably secured with a boundary wooden fence at a suitable height to prevent a child climbing over same. The locking mechanism on the gate cannot be accessed by the children. Both double doors that exit to the rear of the proposed premises in each pre-school room are secured on the inside with thumb turning locking mechanisms to prevent unauthorised entrance.

(c)

There are openable windows in the proposed pre-school rooms and sanitary accommodation to naturally ventilate the areas. Natural daylight is provided in both rooms by several windows and half glass double doors. Ceiling lights provide supplementary lighting in each room. The proposed premises is heated by an air-to-water underfloor heating system which can be regulated by a wall-mounted unit in the entrance hall. The environmental room temperature in the proposed pre-school was maintained between 18-22°C.

(d)

Cleaning schedules are in place in the service and the premises, and its environs were clean and well maintained.

	<p>(e)</p> <p>Adequate sanitary facilities are provided in the service including nappy changing facilities if required. Two toilets and two wash hand basins are available to accommodate the children.</p> <p>An adult toilet and wash hand basin is available for staff use in the log cabin directly beside the pre-school building.</p>
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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.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1), (2)</p> <p>Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of 22 children currently registered to attend the proposed new building on a sessional and part time basis as demonstrated in the table below:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Room</th> <th>Pre-school Room 1 (LHS)</th> <th>Pre-school Room 2 (RHS)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clear floor space</td> <td>43.3 m²</td> <td>42.6 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age Range</td> <td>2 -6 years</td> <td>2 -6 years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of children</td> <td>24 Sessional 19 Part time</td> <td>23 Sessional 18 Part time</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Room	Pre-school Room 1 (LHS)	Pre-school Room 2 (RHS)	Clear floor space	43.3 m ²	42.6 m ²	Age Range	2 -6 years	2 -6 years	Number of children	24 Sessional 19 Part time	23 Sessional 18 Part time
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