

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE174		
Name of Service:	Scoil Bhríde Pre-School		
Address of Service:	Scoil Bhríde National School, Kill, Co. Kildare		
Eircode:	W91 PF85		
Name of Registered Provider:	Caroline Doyle, Denise Kelly		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	01/12/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	33	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child & Family Agency Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Ballymore Eustace Road Naas, Co. Kildare W91 X38W		
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Maher		
Title:	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).			
Conditions if applicable	Not applicable.		

Description of service

Scoil Bhride pre-school is a private sessional service located in Kill primary school Co. Kildare. The sessional service opens on a Monday to Friday basis from 08:45am-11:45am and from 12:00pm-15:00pm for 38 weeks of the pre-school year and caters for children aged between 2-6 years. Three pre-school rooms and office space are provided and are located on the ground floor of the school premises. An outdoor play area is located to the rear of the service.

Staffing

There were nine adults present in the service on the day of the inspection; this included seven staff members working directly with pre-school children; both the registered providers were present and were available to assist and support the pre-school rooms as necessary during the morning.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

- Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(d), (4) – Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1), (3) – Staffing Levels

- Regulation 16(k) – Record in Relation to Pre-school Service
- Regulation 21 – Equipment and Materials
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child
- Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First aid
- Regulation 27 - Supervision

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 providers, 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,
- (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)(b)

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. The named persons in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

The records of nine staff members, including both registered providers were reviewed.

(2)

(a), (b) Two validated references were available on file for all staff members from either a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all employed staff members; however, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.

(4)

Eight employed childcare staff members, working directly with pre-school children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(d)

International police vetting was required for one staff member who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period greater than 6 months as an adult.

(4)

There was no documentary evidence provided to state that one employed adult, working directly with children in the service, held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or equivalent on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff member has been moved to an ancillary role until qualifications can be verified by the DCDE.

Police Vetting now in date and on file.

We will ensure that any person who has lived outside the country has up to date international police vetting as well as garda vetting.

Supporting documentation submitted

Document x 1

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 9(2)(d) and (4) 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.

(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)

There were 33 children attending the service being supervised directly by seven adults.

(3)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the inspection.

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:

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(k)

The service maintained accident and incident books which contained a record of accidents, injuries and incidents involving preschool children attending the service. A sample size of 10 accident and incident reports were assessed and contained all the relevant information and details, including staff and parental signatures.

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

Both pre-school environments were well resourced and constructively planned with interesting play and learning spaces which provided developmentally appropriate, challenging, diverse, creative and enriching experiences that facilitated child led play and learning.

The child sized furniture ensured the children could sit comfortably for tabletop activities and when eating snack. Child sized couches, provided a comfortable quiet space for the children to rest, take a break or read a book or listen to a story. The low-level shelving units provided ease of access for the children to choose any of the play and learning materials that were on display. There was plenty of art and craft materials, sensorial, manipulative, natural and real-life materials that facilitated all types of play and learning and encouraged each child to actively engage, experiment and use their imagination to extend their knowledge and learning. The outdoor equipment included a climbing frame, a smaller hexagonal frame a mud kitchen with utensils and ride on equipment. An extendable canopy ensured play could continue during inclement or very sunny weather.

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:

The main entrance door and the inner doors off the entrance foyer to the primary school building were secure and controlled by the school administrator to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the primary school and the pre-school service.

The room doors into the school corridor were secured on the inside with high level bolt mechanisms to ensure the children did not leave the rooms unsupervised.

During conversations with staff members, they advised they were very observant of any food/fruit provided that had the potential risk of choking and immediately cut the food/fruit into smaller pieces. Staff also advised they immediately remove any necklace a child may wear into the service.

One child had a care plan in place in the event of a medical emergency, and the emergency medication was safely stored, was in date and immediately available should it be required.

Daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments were completed to ensure safe environments for the children and staff. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents which were observed stored in high level cupboards.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for all staff members; however, three vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

Garda vettings on file and in date.

To prevent this occurring again we will give ourselves 2 years 6 months to apply for revetting to allow for any delays in the vetting process.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Documents x 3

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 23 has been met.

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) Staff members present were trained in in first aid response (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in each pre-school room.
 - (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children were available at all times to the adults caring for the children attending the service.

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

The children were observed to be supervised at all times both indoors and outdoors by the staff members caring for them during the inspection.