

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015KY054

Name of Service: Holy Cross Mercy Preschool

Address of Service: New Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Email Address: preschool@mercyholycross.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Ursula Coffey

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

Proposed change: Addition of service type

Proposed Number of Children: 88 children (including 20 for part time service)

Registered change: Change in service type from sessional to sessional and part time
Hours of operation of part time service 08:30- 13:20

Date of Inspection:	0	4	0	5	2	0	2	1
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Inspection undertaken by: N. Reidy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:

Áras An Phobail
Deans Lane
Tralee, Co. Kerry

Rationale for Inspection : Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time and Sessional Service
Date of Registration	24/09/2021

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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	Holy Cross preschool is registered as a sessional service. The service proposes to operate as a part time service within the operational hours from 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday inclusive.
Premises	The premise is located within Holy Cross National school. There are 3 childcare rooms in operation and there are 2 designated outdoor play areas available and accessible for the children attending the service.
Staffing	The registered provider is the Principal of the national school. The designated person in charge and the deputy in charge both work on a daily basis in the service. A total of 5 adults work directly with the children on a daily basis.
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 two themes; Governance, and Safety.</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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Person in Charge and staff member 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 has been met.

(1)(a) There is a designated person in charge on a daily basis and a named person available at all times to deputise as required.

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 has been met.

(1) The registered provider will ensure that at all times there will be an adequate number of adults employed to work in the service.

(8) (b) Not applicable as this is not a proposed child minding service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a proposed child minding service

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—*
- (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, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*
- (2) *A registered provider—*
- (b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*
- (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*
- (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph*

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(2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) Adequate and suitable facilities are provided for play indoors. The 3 playrooms were well laid out with defined interest areas equipped with a variety of play materials and equipment. The rooms had low level open shelving, storage boxes and an adequate number of child sized tables and chairs.</p> <p>(b) The rooms had designated rest areas that consisted of soft couches, soft matting and the person in charge informed the inspector she is looking into purchasing low level soft beds.</p> <p>(2)(b) There were 2 designated outdoor play areas provided on the premises. 1 area had been further developed since the annual inspection of 30/01/'19. A wet pour bark mulch surface was installed with equipment that included for example a car track, a music wall, cars, buckets, water play equipment, a kitchen and watering cans. The 2nd area is currently solely available to the pre-school children and consisted of a full shock absorbing surface with a number of fixed play equipment. The designated person in charge informed the inspector that she is currently exploring the viability of an additional outdoor area located at the rear of the premise.</p> <p>(3) (a) There were 2 designated outdoor play areas provided on the premises. (b) Not applicable as outdoor areas were provided on the premises.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable.</p> <p>(5)(2) Not applicable.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>It is proposed that the parents of the children attending the service will provide all food for the children proposed to attend on a part-time basis.</p> <p>A fridge was provided in 1 of the 3 childcare rooms and a room used by the pre-school staff had a fridge, a microwave and a sink.</p> <p>The service had a Healthy Eating Policy and the designated person in charge demonstrated that she was aware of the food requirements for children attending the proposed part-time service. She informed the inspector the service will have a supply of healthy snacks should any of the children require same.</p>
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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.

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Requirement Met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main entrance door was secured to prevent the public having access to the children and to prevent children exiting the building unsupervised. • Both outdoor play areas were fully enclosed and secure. • All cleaning equipment and agents were stored out of the children’s reach in locked cupboards and high units. • Hand washing facilities to facilitate hygienic hand washing were supplied with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels with pedal operated bins for disposal of the used paper towels. • Supplies of hand sanitiser were provided at various locations within the premise and within each of the 3 playrooms. • The play equipment, materials and furnishings observed on the day of inspection were in a clean condition. Cleaning schedules to respond to COVID-19 were completed.
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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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) There are staff members on duty at all times who have current first aid training.</p> <p>(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box is available in each of the 3 playrooms they are stored high out of the children’s reach.</p>
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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>(1)(a) The service has provision for the recording of all fire drills that take place in the service.</p> <p>(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment in the service was maintained. Records indicated that the fire fighting equipment was checked on 16/11/’20 and the smoke alarms were checked on 27/04/’21.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in each playroom.</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:

The requirement has been met.
The current insurance certificate indicated insurance for 40 children.

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 has been met.
(a) From a visual inspection the premises were of sound and stable structure.
(b) The indoor and outdoor play areas were safe and secure.
(c) Natural lighting was provided through the windows in the playrooms and this was supplemented with artificial lighting. The rooms were ventilated by means of open-able windows and mechanical ventilation in the sanitary accommodation.
(d) From observation the rooms in the service were well maintained and clean throughout.
(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities for both the children and the adults were provided.

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.*
- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*
- (4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
 - (a) a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*

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(5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate floor space is provided in the playrooms for the free movement of children to work and play.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for preschool children.
- (3) The space requirement for children attending on a sessional is met.
- (4) The space requirement for both a sessional and part-time service is met.
- (5) Not applicable as the service is not a temporary pre-school service.