

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY096				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Bellview Woods				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gaelscoil Faithleann, An Pháirc, Cill Airne, Co. Kerry				
<b>Eircode:</b>	V93 WP62				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sean O'Mahony				
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional				
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	26/02/2026				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>15</td> <td>PM</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table>	AM	15	PM	None
AM	15	PM	None		
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.				
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy				
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
---------------------------------	-----

### Description of service

Naionra Bellview Woods is registered as a privately operated early years service, catering for children aged between 2 years and 6 years on a sessional basis. The service offers one session between the hours of 9am and 12.30 Monday to Friday.

The service operates from a spacious playroom, with the sanitary accommodation in the room, in the Gaelscoil Faithleann National school in the urban area of Killarney, Co. Kerry. The children have access each day to a spacious enclosed outdoor play area at alternate times to the children attending the national school.

### Staffing

There are currently 6 adults attached to the early years service, this includes the registered provider who does not work in the service, and a student on placement. There was 1 adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme. Each of the 4 adults working with the children have attained a relevant award in Early Childhood Care and Education. The adults have completed various Continuous Professional Development training as required, for example First Aid Responder (FAR) training and Children's First training with the said certifications in the staff file.

### 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. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

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 person in charge, 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) The registered provider has a designated person in charge and there is a named staff member to deputise in her absence as required.
- (b) When the announced inspection commenced, the person in charge and the deputy were on duty to facilitate with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in respect of the 6 adults were inspected.
- (a) Of the twelve references required, there were eleven references from previous employers with records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the twelve references required there was one reference on file from a source other than a previous employer
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the 6 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was on file for 2 adults who required it having lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer of 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The 4 staff working directly with the children had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) with copies of the relevant qualifications on file.

### 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

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

#### Compliance Information

(1) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children attending the service.

(3) There were 3 adults caring for 15 children aged between 3 years to 5 years attending the service on a sessional basis. There was 1 student on a work placement who was not counted in the adult child ratios. The adult child ratio was correct and maintained.

(8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

### 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

(1)(a)

#### Basic Needs: -

- The children were observed to assist tidying up the toys and play materials with the adults prior to the snack time.
- Prior to eating , the children participated in a relaxation activity, whereby soft music was playing whilst the lights were switched off and the children rested at their tables with their heads resting on their hands.
- The staff were observed to interact with the children in a kind, caring manner during the session.
- The staff supported and encouraged the children with the various activities they participated in during the session, acknowledging their efforts and achievements.
- Ample time was given to the children to eat their food and children who had finished before others went to play.
- The children were observed to play in the designated outdoor area during the inspection appropriately dressed in their coats and hats.
- The children had unrestricted use of the toilets located in the playroom with the adults on hand to supervise and assist as was required.
- The children were accompanied indoors promptly from the outdoor play area when they requested to use the toilet.
- The person in charge stated that children's individual toileting needs are met in consultation with the parents with the records on file to demonstrate this presented to the inspector.

#### Physical & Material Environment: -

- The children were observed to enjoy freedom of movement in the spacious playroom.
- The toys and play materials were stored in open low-level shelving and on the floor whereby the children could independently access them as they so wished.

- The children had access to a rest/relaxation area in the room, it was furnished with soft seating, cushions and a rug on the floor.
- The rest/relaxation area was observed in use for story time during the session for example.
- The room was colourfully decorated with a selection of the children's artwork with plans in place to paint the room as informed by the person in charge.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- The children's parents/guardians provided all food items for the children attending.
- The children had their individual drink's bottles.
- The perishable food items were stored in one of the two allocated fridges in the playroom.
- The service promoted healthy eating and the food provided by the parents /guardians for the morning snack consisted of sandwiches, pasta salad, yogurts and a variety of fruit.

### 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 inspector's arrival to at the service, the main entrance doors to the playroom were found to be secure.
- The first aid box was stored on a high-level shelf in the playroom out of the reach of the children.
- The fire exit door in the playroom had a low -level push bar handle to open it which opened out to the school yard and unsecured gates to the roadway. The was alarmed and in working order when tested.
- The blind cords on the windows were secured to the walls.
- The outdoor play was adequately secured, it was enclosed with the school building, fencing and locked gates.

##### Infection Control:

- Visibly the premise was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- Pedal lidded bins were used for the disposal of waste.
- There were tissues available and accessible to the children at their level for nose cleaning.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

1. There was no thermostatically warm water at the two wash hand basins in the children's toilets and at the wash hand basin in the playroom to facilitate effective hand washing to reduce the spread of infection. The temperature of the water was re-checked and the issue remained unchanged.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

1. There is a booster button to boost the water in the school Principal's office. The staff have been given permission to boost the water in the morning so as this will not happen again. As part of the opening of the service, the staff for the office and press the booster button along with running the taps to make sure that hot water is available during the day.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

1. Videos of the warm water restored at each of the two wash hand basins in the children's toilets and at the wash hand basin in the playroom and a picture of the warm water booster button

### Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met and the regulation is deemed compliant.

## 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 four staff members employed to work with the children had a current certified First Aid Responder certificate (FAR).

- (2)
- (a) The sufficiently equipped first aid box was stored on a high-level shelf in the playroom, out of reach of children.
  - (b) At all times when the service is in operation, the first aid box was accessible to the adults in the event that children required supplies from it.