

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK076		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Galbally Childcare Services Ltd		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Galbally National School, Galbally, Co. Limerick		
<b>Eircode:</b>	E34XN57		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Martin Kearney		
<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	13/12/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM No.
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Browne		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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>	Not applicable		

### Description of service

Galbally Pre-school is a community pre-school service which relocated to a newer designated modular unit in September 2024 within the Galbally National School. It offers a morning sessional service from 9.00am to 12.00pm and a part time service from 12.00pm to 2pm, Monday to Friday. It also provides a school aged service to the children attending the National school.

### Staffing

The registered provider is the school principal of the Galbally National School. There is a designated person in charge who is responsible for running the pre-school service. There are 2 additional staff employed at the service. All staff have the required Childcare qualifications.

### 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, premises and facilities. The inspection 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

*(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 designated person in charge was present on the day of the inspection. There was a second person available to deputise if needed.

(b) The staff roster indicated that the manager or their deputy was always available on the premises.

(2)(a) The files of 3 staff were reviewed on the day on inspection:

Two written references were available for each adult working at the service. All references were validated.

(b) All references were from each person's previous employers or from a previous school or college.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all adults working at the service. Garda vetting for 1 staff was dated within the last three years as per the regulatory notice, EYI-RN12.3 renewal of garda vetting, published by the inspectorate in September 2023 and effective from Jan 01/01/2024.

(d) Police vetting was not required for any adult working at the service.

(4) All adults working at the service had an appropriate qualification 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) The manager of the service ensures that the correct number of adults was rostered to work at the service. On the day of the inspection there were 3 adults present with 14 preschool children for the morning session.

(2) There were no preschool children present for the part time service. The adult/child ratio was correct throughout the morning sessional service.

### 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 services objective was to ensure that each child's learning, development and well-being was supported, taking all children's individual interests, needs and stage of development into consideration. There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service to encourage and educate the children about the importance of good nutrition. The parents supplied healthy snacks and drinks for the pre-school children. Perishable foods were stored in a refrigerator until required each day. Staff sat with the children at break time and actively encouraged mealtimes to be a social occasion. Children's drinks were stored out of their bags and were easily accessible to them throughout the morning.

Children had unrestricted access to the toilets which were located next to the preschool room. Staff were available to assist children if needed.

Lots of soft seating and rest areas were evident in the room for children to relax and rest if time away from active play was needed.

The staff were positive in their communication with the children, using soft tones of voice and listening to the children in a caring and gentle way.

##### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The preschool room was a large and bright space for the children. Low level tables and chairs were accessible for dining at break time and for tabletop activities. Imaginative play areas with dress up clothes, play kitchen and a home corner were available. A reading area with soft seating and a wide range of books was in place. All equipment was stored at children's eye level and was well labelled and easily accessible. Children's artwork was visible around the room.

The children have daily access to the school yard and go on regular outings to the community playground accessible from the school each week.

## 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

There were no open ended sensory and natural materials in the indoor and outdoor areas for the preschool children for their sensory and imaginative play on the day of inspection.

- No sand, no water play or any other form of sensory or natural materials for children’s play.

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

**Corrective and Preventive Action:** The manager has stated in the response that:

The service added a sand box as well as a sensory tray full of rice for children play. Outdoors the service has a tray which can be used both indoors and outdoors to fill with water, sand and natural materials the children and staff find on hunts. Other sensory toys like the animals shown allow the children explore their sense of touch and can also be used in their learning experience too.

The service will ensure there are boxes and trays filled with sensory material such as rice, pasta, cotton wool etc for the children to explore each day.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the sensory trays was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

#### Summary Comment

The evidence was assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials.

## 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:

1. Garda vetting was available for 2 staff members. However, the garda vetting disclosures for the 2 staff members was not dated within the last three years as per the regulatory notice, EYI-RN12.3 renewal of garda vetting, published by the inspectorate in September 2023 and effective from Jan 01/01/2024.

##### Infection Control:

2. There were 2 open bins instead of the pedal operated bins in use in the playroom for the disposal of waste including paper towels from the sanitary facilities. This increased the risk of cross infection for the children and staff.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

**Corrective & Preventive Action:** The manager has stated in the response that:

##### General Safety:

1. Garda Vetting was applied for the 2 adults working in the service.

In order to prevent this from reoccurring the service will ensure that garda vetting is renewed within the three years period.

##### Infection Control:

2. Two pedal bins for the disposal of waste including paper towels from the sanitary facilities have been put in place of the previous bins. This will ensure no cross infection occurs for both children and staff.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted:**

Photographic evidence of the Garda vetting application for the 2 adults and the 2 pedal operated bins was submitted.

### Summary Comment

#### General Safety:

Point 1-The evidence submitted was assessed and the Garda vetting renewal for the 2 adults remains outstanding.

#### Infection Control:

Point 2- The evidence submitted was assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement of infection control Regulation 23 Safety.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

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

*(a) no person other than-*

*(i) pre-school child attending the service,*

*(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*

*(iii) an employee, or*

*(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*

*(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) Attendance records were maintained for each child who attended the service with details of their time of arrival and their time of departure.

(3)(a) A visitors' book was maintained which detailed the daily record of persons who visited the service other than the following :

(i) Pre-school child attending the service.

(ii) A person dropping or collecting such a child.

(iii) An employee.

(iv) An unpaid worker.

(b)A daily record was kept of all adults who entered the service.

## 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 manager at the service had completed first aid responder training and the certificate expiry was dated August 2026.

(2)(a) There was a well-stocked first aid box located on the premises.

(b) The first aid box was readily available and easily accessible if required.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The date of the last fire drill was 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.

(b) The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis. The maintenance records demonstrated that the firefighting equipment was serviced in November 2024 and the smoke alarm system serviced on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the playroom.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available on the day of the inspection which stated that 50 children were covered for full day /part time and/or sessional care by the policy. The commencement date of insurance was the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 and the expiry date of insurance was the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

- 1.The children and staff did not have access to hot water in wash hand basins in the children and adults' sanitary facilities The temperature ranged from 16 °C to 38 °C, staying warm for only a few minutes.
- 2.There were no paper towels and dispenser or dryer for staff and children to dry their hands in the sanitary facility. There was a roll of paper towel in the staff kitchen area of the playroom.
3. There were no pedal operated lidded bins in the sanitary facilities for the safe disposable of paper waste.

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

**Corrective and Preventive Action:** The manager has stated in the response that:

- 1.The service contacted a plumber who has adjusted the thermostat dial to ensure the hot water temperature at the wash hand basins is no more than 43 °C.
- 2.Paper towel dispensers have been attached to the walls of the bathroom so that paper towels are easily accessible and beside the sinks.
- 3.Pedal bins have been put in the sanitary facilities for safe disposal of paper waste.

To ensure this doesn't reoccur the service will check the water temperature regularly in all of the basins so that washing hands in the service can be done efficiently, will also ensure the dispensers have paper towels at all times and that pedal bins are in place in the sanitary facilities

#### **Supporting documentation submitted:**

Photographic evidence of the pedal operated bins, paper towel dispenser was submitted.

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### Summary Comment

The evidence submitted was assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of Regulation 29 Premises (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities, points 1, 2, and 3.