

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK130			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	An Naíonra Gaelscoil Ó Doghair			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Bóthar An Staisiúin, Caisleán Nua Thiar, Co. Limerick			
<b>Eircode:</b>	V42PD71			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Donal Cooper			
<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	11/04/2024			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	31	PM	9
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Riordan			
<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>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Naíonra Gaelscoil O Dóghair is a community sessional and part time childcare service located within Gaelscoil O Dóghair, Primary school, Station Road, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick.

The sessional service operates Monday to Friday, from 9.00am to 12.15pm each day. A facility for children to stay part time until 1.45pm is also offered by the service. The service has capacity to cater for a maximum of 44 pre-school children at any one time. A service for school age children is offered each afternoon.

The service operates from 3 well-resourced pre-school rooms. Each room has clearly defined and well-developed interest areas for play. Sanitary facilities are located next to each of the rooms. The children have access to a large well-resourced outdoor playground for outdoor play activities.

### Staffing

The registered provider is the chairperson of the school Board of Management committee. A designated person is appointed to manage the preschool facility. All staff working at the service hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. There are staff employed who have completed the LINC programme, a course designed to enhance inclusion of children with additional needs in early childhood care and education settings.

### 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 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

*(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 designated person in charge of operating the service was on leave on the day of the inspection. There was a named person available who was able to deputise in their absence.

(b) During the period of the inspection, a designated person in charge was present and the staff roster indicated a person in charge was always available on the premises.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references from past employers were available for all staff at the facility.

(b) All references were from past employers and references from other reputable sources were not required.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for each staff member, however in the case of 4 staff members 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.

(d) Police vetting was available for 2 staff members at the service.

(4) All adults working directly with children held 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of the inspection there were 31 pre-school children and 5 adults on the premises for the morning sessional service. There were 9 preschool children and 3 adults available for the afternoon part time service. The adult child ratio was correct.

### 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*

*(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

#### Compliance Information

##### Basic Needs:

Healthy eating was promoted within the service with parents providing children with a healthy snack each day for lunch. Children had access to their drinks throughout the day if required.

Sanitary accommodations were located next to each room in the service. Nappy changing facilities were provided for those who required it. Outdoor raingear was available making it possible for children to play outside in all weather conditions. A change of clothes was available for all children if needed. Hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels in all sanitary areas ensured hygienic washing of hands.

Designated rest areas were assessable in all rooms of the service with soft seating, soft floor mats, cushions and blankets available if needed.

Children had a regular change of environment and all children had opportunities to spend long periods of time outdoors each day.

### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Each room in the service was well laid out to meet the needs of all children attending the school. Low level tables and chairs were available to facilitate tabletop activities and dining at lunch time. Art and craft materials with lots of paints, brushes and paper were easily accessible. Childrens artwork was displayed around each of the rooms. Home corners, imaginative play spaces, construction areas were well developed in all rooms. Sensorial play was available with sand, water, rice and pasta shells available in tuff trays in all rooms.

The outdoor area consisted of a large playground with lots of new, high quality climbing frames, playhouses, slide and swing sets. The play equipment was designed to stimulate and challenge children regardless of their ability. Soft rubber mats were located under all climbing structures to protect children in the event of falls. Opportunities for running, cycling, and ball games was also available in a cement yard located next to the playground. Children spend as much time as possible outdoors every day at the service.

## 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:

All external gates and doors were appropriately secured preventing any unauthorised access or exit to and from the building.

All emergency fire exits and doors were clear and unobstructed.

All toys and play equipment were in good condition with no broken play materials noted on the premises.

All storage facilities were secure and were inaccessible to children.

#### Infection Control:

There was hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels next to all wash hand basins in the service to ensure hygienic washing of hands. The temperature of the water measured 43 degrees Celsius.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting disclosures for 4 staff members was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. No steps were available for the children to access the nappy changing unit in the sanitary accommodation of the service.

#### Infection Control:

3. There was no nappy changing policy displayed in the nappy changing facility. In order to remind staff of the procedures to ensure proper infection control measures are in place the policy should be displayed close to the changing unit.
4. No foot operated pedal bin was available in the nappy changing area to ensure the safe disposal of soiled nappies. This posed a risk of cross infection.
5. The temperature of the fridge in Preschool Room 2 was 16 degrees Celsius. To ensure the safe storage of perishable foods the temperature must be maintained between 3 and 5 degrees Celsius.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The garda vetting certificates that were out of date have been renewed and all certificates are now dated within the last three years. Certificates will be renewed for all staff every 3 years.
2. The nappy changing unit is now more easily accessible for the older children with steps to the unit available.

#### Infection Control:

3. The nappy changing procedure is now displayed on wall next to the changing unit.
4. A foot pedal operated lidded bin has been purchased and is available next to nappy changing unit to ensure the safe disposal of soiled nappies.
5. The temperature of the fridge that stores perishable lunch foods for the children has been adjusted to maintain a temperature between 3 and 5 degrees Celsius.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Copies of the renewed Garda vetting certificates were forwarded to the Office of the Early Years Inspectorate.

### Infection Control:

Photographic evidence of nappy changing policy on the wall and the lidded bins were forwarded to the Office of the Early Years Inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The Inspector has reviewed the actions and the evidence submitted. The non compliances identified have been adequately addressed.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was a record in writing of monthly fire drills that took place at the service. The most recent drill took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2024.

(b) There was a record in place of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms systems. The most recent maintenance check took place in September 2023.