

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015SO050
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Name of Service	Saints & Scholars Creche & Montessori School
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Address of Service:	Unit 4 Airport Business Park, Strandhill, Sligo, F91 K728
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Email Address:	saintsandscholars.strandhill@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Provider:	Colette Carter
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change:	The service proposes to increase the maximum number of children that can be cared for at any one time from 76 to 118. This will be facilitated by the addition of two new preschool rooms.
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Proposed Number of Children:	118
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Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Provided that the requirements as detailed in the report are met, it is recommended that the proposed changes are approved.
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Registered change:	Change in number of children to be accommodated from 76 to 118
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Date of Inspection:	0	6	0	7	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by:	L Costello and L McGlynn
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
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Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 118 Children
Date of Registration	20 th July 2023

 An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	Child and Family Agency Act 2013 Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016	Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)	1 of 10
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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	Saints and Scholars Creche and Montessori is one of four units in a business park in the seaside town of Strandhill, Co. Sligo. The service is open for 13 years in a building which is leased by the registered provider. The service is in operation between the hours of 8.00am and 5.30pm and cares for children in the age range 10 months to 5 years. A sessional service is provided in two rooms in the service between the hours of 9.30am and 12.30pm. The service is also registered to provide school age care.
Premises	The proposed new rooms will operate from the ground floor of a two-story premises from which the exiting service operates. The rooms contain sanitary accommodation for children and one of the rooms has a designated sleep room. The kitchen is available in the exiting service.
Staffing	There are 13 staff members currently employed within the service who work directly with the children, this includes the registered provider who is the designated person in charge.
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 the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</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 taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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 Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge, that was the registered provider and a named person who was able to deputise as required, that was a second staff member working in the service.

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider confirmed that they are aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6 and will ensure that an adequate number of adults will at all times work directly with the number of children attending the 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*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- (1) (a) Both rooms seeking registration were on the ground floor of unit 3. Both rooms were well equipped and resourced with suitable toys and materials appropriate to the age and stage of development of the proposed children. Interest areas included home corners, construction areas, dress up, arts and crafts, puzzles, threading, and sensory toys. Open low level shelving units enabled all items to be readily accessible to the children and suitable sized tables and chairs were available for play activities and mealtimes.

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	<p>(b) There was a designated sleep room with a number of stackable floor beds in one of the rooms to provide for children’s need for sleep or rest throughout the day. There was rest areas in the form of couches and soft cushions and floor mats in both rooms to ensure children can avail of rest or have a quite space to opt out of an activity if they choose.</p> <p>(2) (b) It is proposed that both rooms seeking registration will have access to the existing outdoor play area situated at the side of the property. The outdoor space consists of two large, separated areas with various materials and resources including, mud kitchens, shops, wooden cars, bikes, slides, playhouses tyres. Ground covering was a mixture of Astro turf, concrete and shock absorbing flooring under slides and climbing frames.</p> <p>(3) (a) (b) The outdoor play area was suitable safe and secure.</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:

This requirement has been met.

The registered provider informed inspectors that snacks for children are provided by parents and guardians. Refrigerators are located in each of the play rooms and on arrival all perishable goods shall be stored in the refrigerator.

The registered provider informed inspectors that there is a kitchen on site and all hot food is prepared on site, following a weekly healthy eating menu plan.

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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.

Requirement met:	<p>The following measures were noted on the day of inspection to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions were made to prevent adults gaining unauthorised entry to the facility by way of secure entry and exit points. • The outdoor play area was fully enclosed with metal-based grid fencing throughout. There were no observable hazards on the grounds of the outdoor area. Toys and equipment appeared in good condition, appropriate for the proposed age group of children and free from obvious hazards. • Suitable hand washing facilities including liquid soap and single use paper towels were provided in the children’s and adults sanitary accommodation and in the preschool rooms. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available in all wash hand basins accessible to children. • The premises and play equipment was visibly clean. Cleaning equipment and materials were stored in a designated storage area that was secured and not accessible to children. • There was a fridge in each care room for the safe storage of perishable food items.
Requirement not met:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The emergency exit doors in both rooms led directly to an unsecured area at the rear of the premises posing a risk that a child may exit the premises unsupervised and access an unsafe area. (2) The rolls of toilet paper and paper towels provided for children in the service was not hygienically dispensed as loose rolls were observed within children’s sanitary accommodation. This has the potential to result in repeated handling of the roll

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	<p>which poses a risk of cross-contamination and is inadequate for infection control purposes.</p> <p>(3) There were no visibility strips on the low-level glass door in one of the rooms posing a risk of injury to a young child.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(1) The registered provider submitted evidence of measures taken to increase safety. A gate has been erected to ensure that this risk area was now secured. This ensures that no child can exit the property unsupervised. The fire officer has reviewed and approved the new measure.</p> <p>(2) The registered provider submitted evidence of wall erected toilet roll dispensers and hand towel dispensers.</p> <p>(3) Visibility strips are provided on the low level glass doors of the care room.</p>
Summary Comment:	This requirement 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.*

Requirement met:	(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in a conspicuous position in each room. These were easily accessible to the adults should a child who they were caring for in the service require first aid treatment.
Requirement not met:	<p>This requirement has partially been met.</p> <p>(1) There were no staff members currently employed in the service with up-to-date training in first aid for children. All staff members employed had paediatric first aid and two registered nurses worked in the service.</p>

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Response from Provider:	(1) The Registered provider submitted evidence of one staff member completed FAR training on the 10 th , 11 th and 12 th of July. Further staff members are booked on FAR training in August.
Summary Comment:	This requirement has been met.

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:	This requirement has been met. (1)(a) A recording system was available which confirmed that monthly fire drills were conducted in the service. (b) The maintenance record for firefighting equipment which was wall mounted in both play rooms confirmed that an annual service was conducted in October 2022. The alarm system was last serviced in February 2023. (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display on the wall in both care rooms seeking registration.
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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:	An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the
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commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(a) Internal walls, floors and ceilings in the service were in a good state of repair and maintenance on the day of inspection. Windows, glass panels and doors were both water-tight and weather-tight with no evidence of dampness or mould growth.

(b)

Entrance to the service was through a secured door operated by a keypad system. Access to the two play rooms was through a bell system. A high level door handle was provided on the door leading from the play rooms to reception area and guarded from unsupervised exit by children.

(c) An adequate source of heating was provided in the service and sanitary accommodation. The lighting was provided by natural light leading from glass panelled windows supplemented with fluorescent ceiling light fittings with protective covers. There was limited natural light provided in one of the rooms on the day of inspection however evidence was submitted by the registered provider the following day to demonstrate that this had been resolved. The photographic evidence showed that a viewing panel had been installed in one of the walls, behind which, there were two windows allowing natural light to enter the room. The preschool rooms and sanitary accommodation was ventilated by mechanical ventilation. Two openable windows in

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	<p>one of the preschool rooms supplemented the mechanical ventilation and purge ventilation was provided in both rooms with an external exit door.</p> <p>(d) The preschool rooms were brightly painted and clean. The walls consisted of a Perspex cover positioned on the lower level of walls to maintain hygiene standards and infection control guidance. The refuse storage bins in the service were stored in an open timber shed at the gable end of the unit outside of the outdoor play area and in an area inaccessible to preschool children. The service had availed of a pest control contract for rodent control.</p>
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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.

Requirement met:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children.</p> <p>(2) A clear floor area of 79.67m² was measured in the one room which is sufficient to cater for 22 pre-school children aged between 3 and 6 years to attend the services full day care provision.</p> <p>A clear floor area of 57.78m² was measured in the second room which is sufficient to cater for 20 pre-school children aged 2 to 3 years to avail of the services full day provision.</p>
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