

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY114
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Name of Service:	Longfield Academy
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Address of Service:	Rock View, Deerpark Road, Cashel, Co Tipperary
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Name of Registered Provider:	Donagh McMahon
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	19/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	73	PM	60
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
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Inspection undertaken by:	Antoinette McNamara
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

Longfield Academy is located in a residential area in Cashel, Co Tipperary. A full day care service is provided for children between the ages of 1 to 6 years old, between the hours of 7.30am to 6.00pm. The premises is a purpose built detached single storey building with an adjacent prefabricated building and a large cabin building. The main building had three activity rooms, a sleep room, sanitary accommodation, a kitchen, office, and storeroom. The prefabricated building has one activity room and sanitary accommodation. The pre-school rooms are located in the cabin along with sanitary accommodation.

Staffing

There were 17 staff working in the service on the day of inspection. Staff working directly with children hold qualifications at Level 5, 6, 7 and 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. The registered provider does not work directly with children in the service.

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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and recruitment,
Regulation 11(1)(2)(8) Staffing levels,

Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, welfare, and development of the child,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,
Regulation 25 First aid,
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 registered provider, 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 had assigned a person in charge to oversee the operation of the childcare facility.

(b) The person in charge was present when the unannounced inspection commenced and facilitated the inspection process. The registered provider arrived during the morning.

(2) Recruitment records of 18 staff working in the service were reviewed and the following information was obtained:

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each of the staff working at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from other sources such as previous schools and colleges.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for each staff member working in the service. Garda vetting had been renewed, in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) The adults employed to work directly with children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education and copies of the corresponding certificates were available.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) While out of state police vetting was available for two staff members, police vetting was not available for one staff member.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Police vetting was received for the relevant staff member.

Supporting documentation submitted

An email of the police vetting was sent to the Early Years Inspector.

Summary Comment

The documented evidence submitted to the inspectorate was reviewed and has met the regulatory requirement.

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.

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

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times

Compliance Information

(1) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care of the children.

(2) The adult child ratios during the day of inspection met the requirements of the regulations as follows:

AM

Room	Age (years)	Min required ratio	Adult: child (morning)
Green	1-2	1:5	3:9
Yellow	2-3	1:6	2:10
Red	2-3	1:6	2:11
Pre-school orange	3-4	1:11	3:18
Pre-school red	3-4	1:11	1:8
Pre-school blue	4-5	1:11	4:17

PM

Room	Age (years)	Min required ratio	Adult: child (afternoon)
Green	1-2	1:5	3:8
Yellow	2-3	1:6	2:10
Red	2-3	1:6	2:10
Pre-school orange	3-4	1:8	3:14
Pre-school red	3-4	1:8	1:5
Pre-school blue	4-5	1:8	4:13

(8)(a) Documentary evidence indicated that there were always at least two adults on the premises while children were in attendance.

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

Basic needs:

Regular nappy changing took place throughout the day and staff were observed to engage attentively with children during the process. Children who were toilet trained were encouraged to use the toilet independently and handwashing was promoted after both nappy changing and toileting. The inspector observed hand washing after nappy changing and before mealtimes. The sanitary facilities had hand washing reminders and steps on the walls at eye level.

Children had free movement and choice of activities in all rooms observed on the day. An outdoor rota was displayed in each room and children were observed in the outdoor area throughout the day.

Children had access to their water bottles/beakers and were able to get a drink throughout the day.

Healthy eating was promoting within the service. Snacks were provided by parents for the children. Adequate, suitable food was observed on the day of inspection. Each child was given enough time to eat their snacks without being rushed.

Children's sleep requirements were met on a need's basis, with staff responding to children's cues of tiredness and supported them with settling for naps according to each child age and the hours that they attended the service.

Physical and material environment:

In each of the rooms, a variety of defined areas of interest were provided for the children to play with. This included dress up area, kitchen, library, and other age-appropriate toys. Low-level shelving provided children with access to a wide selection of activities.

The indoor environment was warm, bright, and well ventilated.

The outdoor play area to the side and rear of the premise was secured. Children used the outdoor space as often as they could weather permitting.

The children's artwork was displayed on the pre-school room walls.

Supporting relationships:

Staff members were observed to treat the children with respect and a positive regard. They sat with children in small groups or individually, engaged in conversation and listened attentively to the children as they spoke.

The children benefitted from the favourable adult to child ratios which enabled each child to receive as much individual attention and support as they needed.

Staff engaged in singing songs, reading stories and circle time with the children. Staff in the green room were observed to sit in the rest area and read stories to the children.

The small group size supported the children to get to know each other well and to develop friendships within the group.

The environment was inclusive and representative of the children attending the service. Languages other than English were used to promote diversity and the inclusion of multilingual children.

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:

The premises was adequately secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining access. The entrance door to the service had to be opened by a staff member. The outdoor play areas were secured to prevent children leaving. All blind cords were securely mounted out of reach of children.

Infection control:

There was warm running water, liquid soap, and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service. There were designated children's toilets available to the children. Designated staff toilets were also provided.

Children were supported to wash their hands at appropriate times during the day such as before eating, after messy play and after using the toilet. The toilets had reminders and a step-by-step guide for hand washing. Staff wore gloves and aprons for nappy changing, in line with the nappy changing policy displayed on the walls in the nappy changing areas. Children's hands were also washed after nappy changing. The nappy changing area was cleaned after each child.

Cots in the sleep room were positioned at least 50cm apart as required to ensure adequate ventilation around each cot and to prevent cross infection.

Administration of medication:

The service had a medication policy.

Fifteen records for recording of medication were sampled by the inspector. Records reviewed indicated that staff were following the policy, records were correctly maintained, dated, signed, and witnessed by staff and signed by parents.

Safe sleep:

There was a designated sleep room in the premises for children to sleep during their attendance in the service. A room thermometer was in operation to ensure that the room temperature was maintained between 18- 22°C. Children were monitored while they slept, and physical checks were conducted at 10-minute intervals. These checks were recorded on individual sleep records for each child.

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 roster demonstrated that the manager planned for FAR trained staff to be present throughout the hours of opening.

(2)

(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An in-date certificate was in place to demonstrate that the service was insured to provide full day care for 93 children that the service is registered to accommodate.