

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2016DR007
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Rathmichael Montessori School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Stonebridge Road, Shankill, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D18 ET38
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Gillian Harrison
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	12/01/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	19	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Carysfort house, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Lmagee
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<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Rathmichael Montessori school provides a sessional (Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme) and a part-time day care service to children aged 2.5 years to 5 years. The service is open from 8.40am to 1.30pm, Monday to Friday. The children's care and education is facilitated in three adjoining care rooms on the ground floor of a two-storey house, within the grounds of Rathmichael Primary school in Shankill County Dublin. An outdoor play area for the children is provided on the premises.

### Staffing

There are four staff members employed to work in the service including the registered provider.

### 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.

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

*(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

- (2)  
The files of all four staff were reviewed as part of the inspection process and for the purpose of assessing compliance with this regulation.
- (a) Eight validated references were available from past employers.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all four staff members.
  - (d) International police vetting was available for two staff members who had lived abroad as adults for more than six consecutive months.
- (4) All staff members held awards in Early childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

## Non-Compliance Information

- (2)  
(d) International police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived abroad as an adult for more than six consecutive months.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff member has attended an appointment at the Embassy and the certificate will be issued in approximately 8 weeks. The service will be aware if any future staff have worked outside of Ireland for more than 6 month's, they will require international Police Vetting.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

## Summary Comment

The non-compliance appears to have been addressed by the registered provider. This regulation will be reassessed on the next inspection.

### 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) An adequate number of adults were working with the children. There were 2 adults working with 19 children on the day of inspection. The registered provider arrived at approximately 10am and assisted with the children during the inspection.

(2) At all times the minimum required ratio of adults to children was maintained.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 10 records for children were reviewed. The information required was documented as outlined below:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date when each child first attended the service.
- (c) A section was available for recording the date when the child ceases attending.
- (d) The name, address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults authorised to collect the child.
- (f) Medical information, allergies, dietary preferences, additional needs, and other information specific to the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of the child’s medical practitioner.
- (h) Immunisation details.
- (i) Signed parental consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

## 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-*

*(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

(1)(b)

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed on the day of inspection as evidenced below:

The children brought in a light lunch from home which was stored in a fridge in the service. A small snack was provided by the service. Children who were staying for the part time service brought in an additional light lunch. Drinks were always available within the room, visible and accessible to the children. The children were supervised when using the toilet and washing their hands. The children moved freely throughout the inspection and were observed spending time in the school hall enjoying games and exercises. All children were dressed in coats and hats appropriate to the weather and played outside on the day of inspection. It was evident through observation that staff were very familiar with the needs of the children. Interactions with the children were warm and sensitive. Staff communicated with the children using soft and gentle tones and promptly comforting children when they became upset.