

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2016LK012

Name of Service Ballyhahill Preschool

Address of Service: Ballyhahill National School, Ballyhahill, Co Limerick

Email Address: ballyhahillpreschool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Sharon Griffin

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input 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:	Increase the number of children from 16 to 20 children
Proposed Number of Children:	20 children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	20 (Max 15 on a part time basis)
Registered change:	Change in number of children from 186 to 20 Children

Date of Inspection:	2	8	0	8	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: E Browne
Title: Early years inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2nd Floor Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.

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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 Part-Time & Sessional Service for 20(Max 15 Part-Time) Children
Date of Registration	29th August 2025

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	This privately operated sessional and part time service was established in 2016. The service provides care and education to children aged 2 – 6 years including the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE).
Premises	The service is operated from a designated room in the national school located in the village of Ballyhahill, Co Limerick. The children have access to a playroom, sanitary facilities, the halla, outdoor areas such as the school yard, the sports field and a designated enclosed play area.
Staffing	The registered provider is the manager of the service and one other staff member will be working in the service each day. Both hold an award in Early Childhood Care and Education.
Methodology	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. 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

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The registered provider is the designated person in charge who has responsibility for running the service daily. A second staff member will work in the service each day for the year.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider will ensure that there is an adequate number of staff employed to work at the service. Two staff will be working in the service for the morning sessional service and those two staff will remain in the service for the parttime hours until 14.00hrs.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service has a well-resourced preschool room to accommodate children from 2 to 6 years of age. The preschool is well stocked with play materials and equipment. The room has areas of interest developed and all play materials are stored on open low-level shelving where all toys are readily accessible to the children.

(b) Adequate rest facilities are available for the pre-school children to rest during the morning and until 14.00hrs if required. An adult sized couch and sleep beds are available.

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- (2) (b) There are fully enclosed outdoor areas accessible to the children throughout the morning to the rear and back of the building. These areas are well resourced with lots of natural play equipment accessible.
- (3)(a) The services outdoor area is available on the premises.
- (b) Not applicable.

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:

The requirement has been met.

The service has a healthy eating policy in place for the service. The parents are provided with a copy of the healthy eating policy to encourage them to adequate, suitable, nutritious and varied food/drinks for their child while attending 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The front door is secure, and staff must allow all visitors to gain access to the facility.

All fire emergency exit doors are unobstructed, and the fire assembly area is clearly visible in the outdoor space.

Safe storage is provided for each child's personal belongings.

Storage for cleaning materials and equipment is provided in a secure area.

A fridge is provided for the storage of perishable foods.

Drinking water is readily available to the children throughout the

Cord blinds are secured and do not pose a potential safety risk.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There are two persons trained in first aid response always accessible and available to the children in the service.

(2) (a) A fully equipped first aid box is available in the service.

(b) The first aid box is readily identifiable and easily accessible to the registered provider and staff if needed.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A record is available of monthly fire drills at the service.

(b) A service record for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms is available. A contracted company visits the school and preschool to check this equipment on an ongoing basis. The last recorded maintenance service of fire extinguishers was dated 30th of May 2025 and smoke alarms was 29th of August 2025.

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(4) A fire assembly point is identified in the outdoor area. A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the pre-school.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The insurance certificate indicates cover for 22 children to attend the service. The certificate expires on 27/03/2026.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(a) The school building appears to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) The entrance door to the service is always locked and access is controlled by a keypad locking system.

(c) Natural lighting is provided with numerous windows, and this is supplemented with artificial lights which are fully encased with protective covers. The radiators are thermostatically, and the service will ensure the maximum surface temperature is 50 degrees Celsius.

The windows in the room are openable to provide natural ventilation.

(d)The designated room in the service is well maintained and clean throughout.

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(e) Sufficient sanitary facilities are provided in the premises with enough toilets, wash hand basins available for both adults and children. Thermostatically controlled hot water at less than 43 degrees Celsius is available at the wash hand basins in the bathroom and also at the wash hand basin in the playroom.

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:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A minimum of 1.818 m² of clear floor space is available for each child proposing to attend for sessional care and 2.3 m² for the children attending for part time care. There is 35.84 square meters available in the preschool room. This allows for a maximum of 20 children attending on a sessional basis and a maximum of 15 children on a part time basis.