

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2016WD002

Name of Service: Kilmacthomas Montessori School

Address of Service: The Old School Houe, Currabaha, Kilmacthomas, Co Waterford, X42PY64.

Email Address: kilmacmontessori@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Rowena Power and Philomena Troy

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time		Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: The service proposed to add an afternoon preschool session from 13:00 to 16:30 in the Montessori 1 room.

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Afternoon Session for 22 children from 13:00 – 16:30

Registered change: Afternoon Session for 22 children from 13:00 – 16:30

Date of Inspection:

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Inspection undertaken by: Aileen Bradshaw

Title: Early years inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla, HSE Community Services, Cork Road, Waterford X91 VX09

Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	12 th May 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	<p>Kilmacthomas Montessori School offers a sessional service caring for up to 33 children aged 2 to 6 years. The service is currently registered to operate from 09:00 to 12:30, for 38 weeks a year and is proposing to add a second session from 13:00 to 16:30 in the Montessori 1 room. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.</p> <p>The service is also registered to offer school-age care.</p>
Premises	<p>Kilmacthomas Montessori School is based in an old primary school on the outskirts of the village. There are three care rooms, Montessori 1, Montessori 2 and a free playroom. The sanitary facilities are adjacent to the rooms. There is also an office and a storeroom.</p> <p>The outdoor area at the rear of the building has both a hard surface and a grassed area. The proposed additional service will be in the Montessori 1 room.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered providers employ four staff members in the service. They hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications</p>
Methodology	<p>The inspection is 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>

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers.

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 service has a designated person and a person who can deputise if required. The registered providers stated that one of them is on the premises at all times.

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 providers propose to have 2 staff working directly with the 22 children in the afternoon session.

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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1) The registered providers stated that they intend to use Montessori room 1 for the afternoon session.

(a) This room is laid out with clearly defined areas of interest. Furniture is used to create specific areas which are equipped with Montessori materials to support practical life exercises, sensorial opportunities, early maths, development of language and an introduction to culture. All materials are arranged on low shelving with tables and chairs close by for ease of access. The areas of interest also include an art and craft table and an interest corner, which is themed depending on the children's interests.

(b) There is a cosy rest area away from the children's main workspace, which is available to them throughout the session. This is furnished with soft bedding, cushions and decorated with a canopy and fairy lights.

(2) There is a large outdoor area at the rear of the premises. It is a mixture of a hard surface and a grassed area. The registered providers stated that they rarely use the yard, and the children prefer the grassed area, which has balance beams, a

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playhouse, a climbing frame, a sand pit, a mud kitchen and a building bench.
There are a variety of wheeled toys for the children also.

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 is met.

The registered provider stated that families provide the children’s food for snacks during the session. However, the registered providers have crackers, rice cakes, and toast available for any child who might like more food or forgot their snack.

There is a fridge on site to store any perishable food during the sessions.

The healthy eating policy described how snack time is a social occasion and also linked a website to offer ideas for healthy snacks. This policy is included in the parent handbook.

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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:

The requirement is partially met.

- There is a cleaning schedule in place, and the cleaning products are stored out of reach of the children.
- There is a low sink in the care room for hand washing or refilling water bottles.
- Liquid soap and disposable towels are available at all hand basins.
- The registered providers have an adequate system in place to limit the risk of unauthorised entry or exit from the building.
- There is a locked storage room which is inaccessible to the children.
- There are lockers available for staff to store personal items.
- Exit doors were unobstructed during the inspection.
- Shelving and storage units are stable and secure.

Requirement not met:

1. Blind cords, although secured with a safety device, are at a low level and slack. These posed a risk of injury to a child.
2. Procedures regarding the management of cross-contamination are not thorough. For example:
 - The staff toilet is used for the temporary storage of cushions, toys, and boxes.
 - Children's spare clothes are stored in open bags underneath a nappy changing unit in a sanitary area.
 - Swing bins rather than pedal bins are used in the sanitary area and the care rooms.
3. The hot water is higher than the recommended temperature for effective hand washing. The temperature is recorded as 52.2°C at 16:10.

Response from Provider:

The registered provider stated the following:

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The blind cords have been removed. 2. The following procedures have been put in place to manage cross-infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The staff toilet has been cleared. • Children's spare clothes have been removed. • Swing bins have been purchased. 3. The hot water has been checked and retested. <p>Photographic evidence was submitted.</p>
Summary Comment:	The actions submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance identified on inspection.

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 is partially met: (1) Two staff members are trained as First Aid Responders and are available to children at all times.
Requirement not met:	(2) The content of the first boxes is out of date, for example, 2020 was the date printed on the bandages.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider stated that the first aid box had been replaced and its contents are now up to date. Photographic evidence was submitted.

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Summary Comment:	The action submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified on inspection.
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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:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1) (a)(b)</p> <p>Records of monthly fire drills are available for review by the inspector. The last fire drill was carried out on the 4th of March 2025.</p> <p>Evidence reviewed demonstrated that the firefighting equipment was serviced on the 4th of March 2025, and the smoke alarms were maintained on the 6th of March 2025.</p> <p>(2) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the entrance hall and the care room. The evacuation meeting point is displayed at the front of the premises.</p>
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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:

The requirement is met. Insurance cover is available for 44 children in the service. The expiry date is the 27th of March 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 is partially met.

- (a) The registered providers confirmed that they knew of no structural defects and that the building is structurally sound.
- (b) The main entrance door has a system in place that adequately secures the entrance to the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the premises. There is a buzzer system in place.
- (c) The care room has openable windows which provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting, which is covered. The room has a thermostat to maintain the optimal temperature in the room. The toilet cubicles have mechanical ventilation systems in addition to openable windows to provide adequate ventilation.
- (d) The room was in a clean condition on the day of inspection. A cleaning schedule template is available in the room to ensure a record of regular cleaning.

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	(e) The room has a sanitary area down the hall with two toilets and two wash-hand basins. There are nappy changing facilities available if required.
Requirement not met:	(d) The yard at the rear of the premises is not well-maintained. There are weeds, nettles, and thistles growing through the cracks in the concrete. There is a buildup of moss in the yard. This was a non-compliance on a previous inspection.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider stated that the rear of the premises had been cleaned and that this will be maintained on an ongoing basis. Photographic evidence was submitted
Summary Comment:	The action submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified on inspection.

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.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
- (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

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Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The registered provider stated that they would use Montessori room 1 only for the afternoon sessional service, as the school-age children use the two other care rooms in the building.

(1) The clear floor space available in Montessori Room 1 for the work, play and movement of children attending the service is adequate for 22 preschool children proposed to attend the additional afternoon session.

(2)

Room	Montessori 1 Room
Clear Floor Space	72.68 sqm
Age Range	2-6 years
Proposed number of children	22 afternoon sessional children

The above table illustrates that the minimum clear floor space is available for children based on their age range and attending the service on a sessional basis.