

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018CC510
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Name of Service:	Cherryblossoms Lismire
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Address of Service:	Lismire National School, Lismire, Newmarket, Co Cork
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Eircode:	P51 R156
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Name of Registered Provider:	Christina Dunstan
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	17/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	6	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	13 Market Square Mallow Cork P51DD5Y
Inspection undertaken by:	B Fraher
Title:	Early Years Inspector

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

Cherryblossoms Lismire is located in Lismire National School and is a registered part-time service run by a multiple provider. This service is registered to operate from 9:00 to 14:00 but currently operates sessional hours from 09:20 to 12:20, 38 weeks of the year. The service caters for children aged 2 to 6 years. The service consists of the main room and two children's toilets. There is an outdoor play area situated at the rear of the school and a carpark is available at the front of the school.

Staffing

There is a total of two staff employed by the service. The registered provider is not service based.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9: Management and recruitment, Regulation 10: Policies, procedures of a preschool service, Regulation 11: Staffing levels, Regulation 16: Records of a preschool service, Regulation 19: Health, welfare and development of a preschool child, Regulation 21: Equipment and material, Regulation 23: Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child, Regulation 24: Checking in and out of a preschool child, Regulation 26: Fire safety measures, however on inspection additional non-

compliances which posed a risk were identified under Regulation 29: Premises. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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.

Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the person in charge on the day of inspection as three radiators in the care room were recorded to have a surface temperature of between 54.3°C and 55.9°C and this posed a burn risk to the children. It is acknowledged that the person in charge turned down the thermostat settings on the radiator on the day of inspection and informed the inspector that the setting would remain below 50°C in the future. The registered provider has put a plan in place to maintain the radiators at a lower thermostatic level. This was adequate to mitigate the risk. Further information can be found under Regulation 23 of this report.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the children, registered provider, person in charge and staff 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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 service had a designated person in charge on the day of inspection and a named deputy in the service that could deputise as required.
 - (b) The person in charge and the deputy were on duty at the service when the inspector arrived. The staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or the deputy were on duty at all times during the hours of operation.
 - (c) There was clear evidence on inspection of the management structure in place and the specific roles of each staff member. This was on display on the notice board.

- (2) The recruitment records in relation to two adults who were employed in the service and working directly with the children and the registered provider were the subject of inspection.
- (a) Of the six required references, none were from previous employers.
- (b) Of the six required references, six were from another source other than a previous employer with a record of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained and were on file for each of the three adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was required and available for one of the three adults as they lived outside of the state for longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) There was evidence that two of the three adults who required childcare qualifications held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 to level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. A third adult had a Letter of Eligibility to Practice from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The following policies were reviewed:

- Policy on healthy eating
- Policy on infection control
- Policy on accidents and incidents
- Policy on authorisation to collect children

The policies contained the information required to guide staff in their care practices for the children.

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) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children at all times. There were six children with two staff members directly supervising them during the morning of the inspection.

(2) The service exceeded the minimum ratio required as per regulation in the care room. The six children attending the service were supervised directly by two adults.

(8)

(a) The service operated with at least two adults present at all times. This was observed on the day of inspection and was evident through examination of the roster.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(k) An accident and incident record book was available for review. There were no records of accidents or incidents recorded in the book. In conversation, staff stated no accidents or incidents had taken place since the last inspection on the 18 September 2023.

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,

Compliance Information

Basic needs:

- Food was prepared by the parents or guardians and was observed to be healthy and nutritious. Examples of food served for snacks were yogurts, crackers, rice cakes and fruit.
- The staff were observed helping and assisting the children where necessary at snack time.
- Drinking water was available to the children throughout the morning in the care room.
- Children were observed accessing the sanitary area independently. Staff were available to provide assistance.
- Children's independence was promoted with staff observed supporting and encouraging children with self-help skills. Examples included children putting on their coats and serving their own snacks.
- Children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of an adult sofa. Age and stage appropriate books were positioned nearby.
- Outdoor play was promoted and observed at the time of inspection with the staff observing and assisting children during play. The inspector observed children playing in a large tarmac area in the back of the school.

Supporting relationships:

- All children were observed to be actively encouraged by staff to participate in activities. Materials and resources were available which accommodated each child's individual needs such as art supplies, toy tractors and cars, puzzles, bricks, toy kitchens, construction toys and books.

- The staff in the care rooms were noted to interact with the children in a caring manner throughout the inspection. For example, the staff sat at the table at the children’s level completing artwork, reading books and engaging in conversations such as discussing pancake Tuesday.
- The adults were observed to show positive regard for the children on the day of inspection. The children were encouraged and praised during tasks in a warm and caring manner for example when children played with blocks, magnetic bricks, dolls and painted.
- Various methods of communication were used to link with parents and guardians such as email, phone and communication at collection and drop off. Parents/guardians came to the door of the room collecting each child and positive interactions were observed between parents/ guardians and staff.
- Children’s identity and belonging was fostered through the display of works of art and their recent learning on the wall of the care room.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service consisted of one large preschool room which was very well equipped with a range of toys, materials and furniture suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending the service. There were child sized tables and chairs for tabletop activities such as artwork, reading books, completing puzzles and eating at snack time. The room had a number of interest areas which were appropriately resourced, including the home corner, art and craft materials, a dolls house, small world materials, and dress up. There were low level open shelves around the room where all the play toys were easily accessible to the 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 entrance door was secured appropriately. This restricted unauthorised access to the building and prevented the risk of children exiting unsupervised.
- The windows in the care room were adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The toys and play equipment assessed were in good condition.
- The outdoor area was a safe and secure space for the children with concrete walls, timber gate and plastic fencing. This prevented children gaining unsupervised access to an unsafe area.
- The equipment used in the outdoor area was in good condition. Additional toys were also brought out from the indoor area for play.
- The first aid box was stored out of reach of the children.
- There were no cables or trailing flexes accessible to the children on the day of inspection.

Infection control:

- Children's coats and bags were stored off the ground.
- A refrigerator was available in the care room for the storage of perishable foods.
- Children washed their hands before snack time and after using the toilet facilities.

Medication administration:

- The staff in the care room informed the inspector that no regular medicine was being administered to a child currently in the service.
- Temperature reducing medication was stored out of reach of the children.

Fire safety:

- Fire exits were noted to be free from obstruction.

- Fire extinguishers were secured to the walls.

Non-Compliance Information

General safety:

On the day of inspection, three radiators in the care room were recorded to have a surface temperature of between 54.3°C and 55.9°C and this posed a burn risk to the children. It is acknowledged that the person in charge turned down the thermostat settings on the radiator on the day of inspection. An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the person in charge. It is acknowledged that the person in charge turned down the thermostat settings on the radiator on the day of inspection and informed the inspector that the setting would remain below 50°C in the future. The registered provider has put a plan in place to maintain the radiators at a lower thermostatic level.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following response was received from the registered provider:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General safety:

The thermostat was turned down on the day of inspection. A new check sheet has been introduced to ensure the temperatures remain below 50°C.

Supporting documentation submitted

General safety:

Immediate action notice email response.

A copy of the new temperature recording sheet.

Summary Comment

The corrective action submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 23.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service.
- (3)
- (b) A daily record of visitors to the premises was kept in a notebook in the care room. The inspector was requested to signed in and out from the service.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) Fire drill records were reviewed. Evidence was available to show fire drills were practiced and recorded on a monthly basis. Records showed that the last fire drill was completed 30 January 2026.
- (b) Written records were available of the servicing of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms. The firefighting certificate was dated 8 October 2025, and the smoke alarm certificate was dated 15 September 2025.
- (4) The services fire evacuation procedure was clearly displayed at the fire exit door.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

(d) One window in the care room was observed to have cobwebs with flies attached. It is acknowledged that cleaning records were available and the windows were recorded to be cleaned on the 13 February 2026, however effective cleaning had not taken place. The lack of cleaning posed a risk of infection to both staff and children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following response was received from the registered provider:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The windows were cleaned immediately. A notice was put in place to remind staff to sign only when cleaning was completed. Windows are to be cleaned monthly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the window cleaned received.

A copy of the staff reminder sign.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider was deemed to meet regulatory compliance under Regulation 29 (d).