

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2019LK001

Name of Service The Old School ABC

Address of Service: Bohermore, Ballysimon, Co Limerick

Email Address: theoldschoolabc@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ciara Sheehy

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| Type of Proposed Service: | Full Day Care | <input checked="" 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: Adding an additional service type: From Part Time & Sessional to Full Daycare, Part Time & Sessional.

Proposed Number of Children: 28 (no change)

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Approve all changes

Registered change: Adding an additional service type from Part Time & Sessional to Full Day Care, Part Time & Sessional.

Date of Inspection: 2 4 0 8 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: E Browne

Title: Early Years Inspectorate

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

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

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| Registration Status: | Registered Full Day Care / Part Time / Sessional Service for 28 Children |
| Date of Registration | 6 th October 2023 |

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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).

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| <p>Description of Service</p> | <p>The Old School Abc is a part time pre-school service located in a modified old schoolhouse building on the grounds of Bohermore National School in Ballysimon, Co. Limerick.</p> <p>It currently operates a pre-school service each morning from 9.00am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday and extended part time service to 1.45pm.</p> <p>It proposing to offer full day care, part time and sessional care from 09:00 to 15:00 with an additional sessional session from 12.00pm to 14.50 pm for 8 preschool children.</p> <p>A service for school aged children is offered each morning from 08.00 to 09.00 am and each afternoon.</p> |
| <p>Premises</p> | <p>The service operates from 2 well-resourced pre-school rooms. There are sanitary facilities located directly next to the main pre-school room. Additional outdoor areas for the pre-school children's exclusive use are also provided.</p> |
| <p>Staffing</p> | <p>The registered provider is the manager of the service. The registered provider and 9 staff are employed to work in the service each day. They hold an award in Early Childhood Care and Education.</p> |
| <p>Methodology</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> |

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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| | 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, staff and children present on the day of the inspection. |

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—

(4) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The registered provider has appointed a designated person in charge who has responsibility for running the service daily. There is a person available to deputise if required.

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 will be an adequate number of staff employed to work at the service depending on the number of children that attend each day.

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*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

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

(b) Adequate rest facilities are available for the pre-school children to rest during throughout the day if required. Cot beds are available if any child requires a sleep.

(2) There are fully enclosed outdoor areas accessible to the children throughout the day 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 areas are available on the premises.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 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 adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food/drinks for their child while attending the service.

Children have access to drinking water throughout the hours of operation.

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 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 day.

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—

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

- (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.

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| Requirement met: | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) There are 4 staff trained in first aid response who are accessible and available to the children in the service.</p> <p>(2) (a) A fully equipped first aid box is available in the service.</p> <p>The first aid box is readily identifiable and easily accessible to the registered provider and staff if needed.</p> |
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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.

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| Requirement met: | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) A record is available of monthly fire drills at the service.</p> <p>(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 is dated September 2022.</p> <p>(4) A fire assembly point is identified in the outdoor area. Notices of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the pre-school.</p> |
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 28 children to attend the service. The certificate expires on 27/03/2024.

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 old school building appears to be of sound and stable structure. It appears clean and well maintained throughout.

(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 storage heaters are thermostatically controlled to ensure safe surface temperature. The windows in the room are openable to provide natural ventilation.

(d) The designated rooms in the service are well maintained and clean throughout.

(e) Sufficient sanitary facilities and nappy changing areas are provided in the premises with enough toilets, wash hand basins and nappy changing unit available for the proposed increase in number of children at the service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

There are 3 toilets, 1 nappy changing unit and 3 wash hand basins available to the preschool children. There is one designated toilet assigned to the adults with additional facilities available in the National school premises if required.

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).*

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) The required minimum amount of floor space determined by the age range of the children is available in the premises.
- There is 41 square meters available in Room 1 and 17.42 square meters available in Room 2.
- (3) The minimum amount of floor space required is available.
- (4) Sufficient space is available for both the children attending the sessional service and the full day-care service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT
Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



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