

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D:** TU2021DY003

**Name of Service** Belgrave Montessori School

**Address of Service:** 67-69 Upper Rathmines Road, Dublin 6, D06 K763

**Email Address:** belgravemsch@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Pamela Carter

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Change in service type from part time to full day care.
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	44 part time and 22 full day care
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	44 part time, max 22 full day care (2.5 – 5 years of age).
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in Service Type from Part Time to Full Day Care / Part Time for 44 Children (max 22 Full Day) Change of time of operation from 8:45am to 1:45pm to 8:45am to 5:30pm.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	0	0	4	2	0	2	3
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**Inspection undertaken by:** E Hosford and A Dunne  
**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A,  
Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day / Part Time Service for 44 Children (Max 22 Full Day Care)
<b>Date of Registration</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2023

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### 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Belgrave Montessori School currently operates a part time early years' service for children aged from 2.5 to 5 years of age in the Rathmines and Rathgar Musical Society Hall, Dublin 6. The service is provided for 38 weeks per year and operates from 8:45am to 1:45pm Monday to Friday for a maximum of 44 children. School age children are also accommodated in the afternoons.
<b>Premises</b>	The premises consists of two large bright care rooms which are divided by a soundproof screening. The staff and children have access to sanitary accommodation, and the service has use of a ground floor kitchen and an enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the building.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service employs seven staff, to include the registered provider, person in charge and five childcare staff. On the day of inspection, the registered provider and person in charge and five staff worked directly with the children.
<b>Methodology</b>	<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 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.</p>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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### 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 had a designated person in charge and a named staff member was available to deputise as 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.

(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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has proposed that the following number of adults will be working directly with the children attending the service.

- **Room 1:** There will be 3 staff members working directly with 22 children aged 2.5-5 years during the part time session from 8:45am to 1:45pm.
- **Room 2:** There will be 3 staff members working directly with 22 children aged 2.5-5 years during the part time session from 8:45am to 1:45pm and 4 staff members working with 22 children aged 2.5-5 years during the full day care hours of 1:45 to 5:30pm.

(8)(a) The registered provider has ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises.

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.
- (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:**

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

The service comprises of two care rooms which were laid out as follows.

- Room 1 and 2: Each room was bright and laid out in areas of interest to include a home area with play kitchen (equipped with pots, pans, dishes, play food), construction (stacking blocks and bricks, cars, trucks, and train sets), rest area (cushions, mats, books, and soft toys), art and crafts (paint, paper, pencils, crayons and stencils).
- The educational approach of the Montessori method of education was also emphasized with areas to include practical life (trays with jugs, bowls, and pegs), sensorial (pink tower, brown stairs, and knobbed cylinders), language (insets for design, pencils, paper, sandpaper letters, magnetic letters, books), mathematics (number rods, sandpaper numbers, number boards, number tiles, beads, and games), culture (world maps, plastic animals and spiders, planet puzzles).
- Outdoor area: The enclosed space is surfaced with artificial grass and had materials and games available for the children to engage with. A play kitchen

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	<p>with pots, pans, acorns, and conkers, a playhouse, farm animals with farmhouse, child sized seating and picnic tables.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All materials and equipment in the care rooms were appropriate to the age and development of the child and were stored on low level accessible shelving.</li> </ul> <p>(1)(b) The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The rest areas consisted of mats, cushions, and child size chairs. The service had provision made for children that may require to sleep while attending the service. These included soft matting, each with individual sheets and blankets.</p> <p>(3)(a) The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The enclosed space is surfaced with artificial grass and had materials and games available for the children to engage with. A play kitchen with pots, pans, acorns, and conkers, a playhouse, farm animals with farmhouse, child sized seating and picnic tables.</p>
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### 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 proposes to introduce the following snacks and meals which will facilitate the children attending on a part time and full day care basis.

9am Breakfast of cereal and milk.

10:15am Fruit and toast snack.

11:45am Lunch provided by parents.

2.30pm Hot meal provided from an outside catering company.

4:30pm Snack of crackers, cheese, yogurts, and fruit.

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The food provided by the service and parents is reflective of the service healthy eating policy. Additional food will be available between meals if a child is hungry, and water is available during meals and throughout the day.

### 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.

#### General Safety:

- The main door is secured with a lock which is managed by staff, thus preventing a child from exiting unsupervised and to avoid unauthorised access to the service.
- The play materials and equipment in the service were stored on stable-based low level shelving units. The play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the proposed children.
- The tables and chairs in the care rooms that are used for tabletop activities and mealtimes were the appropriate height for the age of children accommodated in the room.
- The emergency exit doors of the service were unobstructed.

#### Infection Control:

- All storage of waste, both indoors and outdoors was inaccessible to the children.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, paper towels and closed lid pedal bins were available in the sanitary accommodation.
- Cleaning schedules were in use within the care rooms, sanitary facilities, and outdoor area.

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### Rest:

- The service had rest areas available to the children to include soft seating, cushions, and mats if a child was tired and required a break. Additional soft matting and bedding was available should a child require to sleep.

### 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) Two staff members had up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) certificates.

(2)(a)(b) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in Room 2 and the outdoor area.

### 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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<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) A template was available to record fire drills that take place in the service.</p> <p>(b) The firefighting equipment was last serviced on in January 2023 and the smoke detection system was serviced on the 18 April 2023.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the doors of the two care rooms and the entrance hall.</p>
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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The service had an insurance proposal to cover 44 children aged from 2.5 to 5 years from the 28 August 2023 to 28 March 2024. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.</p>
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### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.
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(a) During the inspection it was observed that the walls, flooring, doors, and windows were suitably maintained, and the inspectors did not identify any safety issues or concerns.

(b) The entrance door to the service was secured with a lock to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to avoid unauthorised access to the service. The outdoor area was enclosed with a wall and fence.

(c)

- The windows in each of the care rooms provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required.
- Recessed florescent ceiling lights were fitted with shatter proof coverings.
- The service is heated by gas with thermostatically controlled wall mounted radiators with a temperature not exceeding 50°C.
- The sanitary facilities are fitted with open windows to extract stale air and provide ventilation.
- The care rooms had open windows to allow for ventilation and the temperature of the rooms did not exceed the recommended temperature of between 18-22°C.

(d) The care rooms and sanitary facilities were in a clean condition on the day of inspection. A cleaning schedule was available in the care rooms and sanitary facilities to ensure regular cleaning of the service.

(e)

- The two sanitary facilities in the service comprised of 4 children's toilets, and 4 wash hand basins.
- Both facilities have windows that can be opened for ventilation.
- Warm water not exceeding 43°C, liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided in all sanitary facilities. Pedal bins were provided for the disposal of paper hand towels.
- A separate sanitary facility is provided for the use of staff to include 1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin.

**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.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
- (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) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the service.

(2)

Room	Room 1	Room 2
<b>Clear Floor Space</b>	64.216 sqm	59.40 sqm
<b>Age Range</b>	2.5 -5 years	2.5-5 years
<b>*Proposed Number of children on a part time and full day care basis.</b>	22 (2.5-5 yr olds)	22 (2.5-5 yr olds)

\*Calculated as per Schedule 7: Minimum Space Requirements.

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The above table illustrates that the minimum clear floor space is available in Room 1 and Room 2 for 22 children aged between 2.5 to 5 years old based on their age range and attending the service on a part time and full day care basis.

(4)(b) The minimum clear floor space is available for the duration of the part time and full day care service.