

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



**Tusla I.D:** TU2021DY003

**Name of Service:** Belgrave Montessori School

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

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

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Ms Pamela Carter

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

**Proposed service type:** Part-time  
**Proposed Number of Children:** Maximum number of children at any one time; 44  
**Registered service:** Part time service for 44 children

**Date of Inspection:** 0 9 0 8 2 0 2 1

**Inspection Undertaken by:** Ms M Foley and Ms M Mc Donnell  
**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate,  
Child and Family Agency,  
Dublin North East,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A,  
Blanchardstown Corporate Park,  
Dublin 15.

### Rationale for Inspection

### Proposed New Service

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Part time service for 44 children  
**Date of Registration:** 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

### 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>	<p>The proposed new service is located in Rathmines and Rathgar Musical Society Hall. The proposal is to provide a part time preschool service for children aged from 3 to 6 years old for 38 weeks per year.</p> <p>The registered provider operates another long established Montessori preschool service nearby.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The proposal for the new service consists of two large bright well ventilated rooms created in the Hall with sound proof screening between the rooms, sanitary accommodation, a kitchen and a new well equipped, safe and secure outdoor area at the rear of the premises.</p> <p>Both rooms have been painted and fully furnished and equipped to meet the needs of children aged from 3 to 6 years' old</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The registered provider has a named person-in-charge and a second staff member ready to commence work at the service.</p> <p>The proposal is to employ more staff as the number of children enrolled increases to a maximum of 44 children.</p>
<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 two themes; Governance, and Safety.</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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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>Acknowledgement</b>	<p>The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider who were present on the day of the inspection</p>

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

### 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 service has a designated person-in-charge and the registered provider is the named person who will deputise when 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)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

#### Requirement met:

(1) The registered provider has demonstrated that there are an adequate number of adults available to work directly with the number of children currently enrolled. The registered provider is aware of the ratio of adults to children aged from 3 to 6 years old attending a part-time service as outlined below;

- one adult for every eight children.

#### And the ratio for a sessional service;

- one adult for every eleven children.

(8)(b) &(c)Not applicable as the proposal is for a part-time service.

**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—*
- (a) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, or*
  - (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 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 pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph (4), the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

**Requirement met:**

(1) (a) The registered provider’s proposal is for a sessional and part-time service in two care rooms for children aged from 3 to 6 years old and a maximum of 44 children attending a sessional service or 40 children attending a part time service at any one time.

The facilities are suitable and adequate to meet the care needs of the proposed number of children.

The new and fully furnished outdoor area is bright, safe and well equipped with seating for children and staff, a double sided art easel, several blackboards nicely displayed as large flowers, a sand box and toys and equipment to facilitate free play and outdoor activities. Additionally, staff have prepared a tray of toys and crayons for each care room/pod for use in the outdoor area.

The proposal does not include an overnight pre-school service.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

	<p>(b) Five sleep mats and linen were available to support rest and sleep if required. Cosy areas were available in both care rooms.</p> <p>(2)(a) &amp; (b) The service has a suitable, safe and secure outdoor area ready and available daily for the children to use. It is located at the rear of the premises.</p> <p>(3)(4) &amp; (5) Not applicable as the proposed new part-time service has an outdoor play area on the premises ready for use by the children enrolled.</p>
--	---

### Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services

#### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The registered provider;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a fridge available in the kitchen to store perishable food.</li> <li>• Has a healthy eating policy and it has been shared with parents?</li> <li>• Proposes to provide snacks of a variety of sliced and diced fruits with yogurts and parents will be asked to provide health lunches.</li> <li>• Drinking water and milk will be available to the children at all times.</li> </ul>
-------------------------	--

### 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.*

<b>Requirement Met:</b>	<p><b>General Safety;</b> The care rooms, sanitary accommodation and the outdoor areas were in very good condition with all areas safe and secure. Both care rooms were set up and ready for use with appropriate child size tables, chairs, equipment and toys on display. Areas of interest included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a large colourful house that the children can enter and play in. The house was furnished, fully decorated and equipped with household items and utensils to support role play and imaginative play.</li> <li>• a large dinosaur den and many types of dinosaurs,</li> <li>• library areas with a variety of books and colourful mats and cushions nearby,</li> <li>• open shelving with Montessori equipment and a maths area with wooden blocks, cylinder, rods, cones, counters, jigsaws, cash registers and shapes.</li> <li>• a free standing farm table with a variety of animals</li> <li>• A well-supplied arts and craft area with crayons, paper, paints and shapes within easy reach of the children.</li> </ul>
-------------------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• high well maintained stone walls and wooden gates with sliding locks surrounded the bright and cheerful outdoor area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Infection Control;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All care rooms had high openable windows and rooms were well ventilated.</li> <li>• Thermostatically controlled warm water was available at all wash hand basins in the sanitary areas.</li> <li>• Liquid soap, paper towels and pedal bins were available in the sanitary areas.</li> <li>• During Covid-19 pandemic, the registered provider proposes that a staff member will meet and greet parents at the entrance door and complete a short Covid-19 review.</li> <li>• During Covid-19 pandemic, the registered provider proposes to have children from one care room/pod arrive 10 minutes before the children attending the second care room/pod arrive. This is to facilitate parents and to avoid congregation of parents and children near the entrance door.</li> <li>• In keeping with national Covid-19 guidelines, the registered provider has identified an isolation area off the front care room for use should a child or staff member be required to isolate until collected.</li> </ul> <p><b>Safe Sleep;</b></p> <p>The proposal is to enrol children from 3 to 6 years old.          As per the services policy on safe sleep; rest and sleep requirements, children will be supervised at all times in the care room with sleep mats and linen available if needed.</p>
--	--

Part VI - Safety	
Regulation 25 – First Aid	
<p>(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.</p> <p>(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times</p>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>(1) First aid for children certificates were available for the proposed person-in-charge and the proposed named person who can deputise when required.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) An easily accessible suitably equipped first aid box was available in the care room.</p>

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New 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.

#### Requirement met:

- (1)(a) A fire drill record template was ready for use to record monthly fire drills.  
 (b) A maintenance record for the firefighting equipment was available for inspection with an expiry date of Jan 2022.  
 A maintenance record indicated that the smoke alarms were checked on 25/3/2021. The registered provider is aware that the system is due for review by the end of August 2021.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were on display.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The registered provider had available adequate insurance cover for a maximum of 20 children at any one time.  
 The registered provider was aware of the need to increase insurance cover should their enrolment numbers increase above 20 children at any one time.

### 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:

- (a) The premises of the service appeared to be of sound and stable structure. Walls in the care rooms and sanitary accommodation were freshly painted and all flooring was clean and well maintained.
- (b) The entrance door was safe and secure with an inside door opening system managed by staff and an outside bell in place when needed.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

(c) Natural light from large clean windows lit the rooms. Electric lighting was available in each room to augment natural lighting when needed. Shatter proof covers were in place over all bulbs.

The heating system was from the main gas supply. Radiators were covered with child friendly attractive open shelves with a mesh backing.

Openable high windows were available in all areas of the preschool premises. The air was fresh and the rooms were well ventilated on the day.

(d)The premises including the outdoor area were clean, very well maintained and decorated in warm and fresh colours.

(e)There were two sanitary areas. In one area there were three toilet cubicles and three wash hand basins for the use of the children. In the second area there was one toilet and wash hand basin for the children and a second toilet and wash hand basin for the staff. There were an adequate number of toilets to meet the needs of a total of 44 children and staff at any one time.

### 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.*

#### Requirement met:

(1) & (2) The application for the new service consisting of two care rooms is to provide a sessional and part time service for children aged between 3 and 6 years old.

The requirement has been met and the clear floor space available is as follows;

**Front room:** there is a total of 42.36 sq<sup>m</sup>.

The room can cater for

- 22 children attending a sessional service

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

- 18 children attending a part-time service

**Back room:** there is a total of 59.42 sq<sup>m</sup>.

The room can cater for

- 22 children attending a sessional service
- 22 children attending a part-time service

(3) Not applicable as the application is for a part time service.

(4) (a)&(b)The minimum clear floor space applicable for a sessional service is available and the new service can accommodate a total of 44 children with a maximum of 22 children in each care room.

The clear floor space available for a maximum number of children attending a part time service is 40.

(5) Not applicable as the proposal does not include a temporary service.