

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2022CE001

Name of Service Clooney Preschool

Address of Service: Clooney National School, Knockanourna, Tulla, Co Clare, V95 WC55

Email Address: omalleyolga@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Olga O'Malley

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

Proposed change: Increase number of children from 11 to 22

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in number of children to 22

Registered change: Change in number of children from 11 to 22 children

Date of Inspection: 2 3 0 7 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: J Hayes

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Ennis Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	3 rd September 2025

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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).

Description of Service	This sessional service is operated from a classroom in Clooney primary school. It is currently registered for up to a maximum of 11 pre-school children and has a capacity to accommodate 22 pre-school children. The children attending the service are aged between 2 years and eight months and 6 years. The service is open from 09.15 to 12.15 hours Monday to Friday.
Premises	The service accommodation comprises of one playroom, children's and adult sanitary facilities and an enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises. The service also has access to the school yard and school field for outdoor play purposes. Parking for drop off and collection of children is to the front of the premises.
Staffing	The service has a person in charge and the registered provider also works in the service.
Methodology	<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>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, who was 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.

Requirement met:

(1) (a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy. Both staff were named by the registered provider.

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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 committed to ensuring that there are adequate numbers of adults working directly with the children daily.
The plan is for two to three adults to work with 22 children during the sessional service Provision.

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.
- (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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) There are adequate facilities for the children to play indoors.
The downstairs care room is of adequate size to accommodate tables and chairs for each child. Areas of interest are set up which would facilitate independent play in small or large groups. Toys and resources are at a height that is accessible to all children.

(b) There is a quiet area in the room that can facilitate time away from the main play area but can be easily supervised by the staff. This area contained a floor mat, soft seating and cushions for comfort.

(4) The facilities for play outside are directly adjacent to the playroom and can be accessed via a door from this room. This area is secured with timber railing, and the registered provider states this area will be supervised by adequate staff when in use. Additional outdoor play space is available in the national school yard which has a tarmac surface, and a school field is also available which is fully enclosed with stone walls and fencing. A selection of sensory play and messy play activities are provided

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in the enclosed space and ride on toys, scooters, bicycles and balls are available for use in the school yard and field.

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 which is shared with parents, and all food is provided by the parents/guardians of the children attending the service.

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:

- A fridge was provided in the care room for the safe storage of perishable food items contained in children’s lunches.
- There was access to hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels at each of the children’s wash hand basins.
- There were lidded pedal operated bins available for the disposal of the used paper towels in the toilets and in the care room.
- The window openings were at a high level that could not be accessed by the children.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a locked area out of the reach of children.
- The dedicated outdoor play area was fitted with a timber railing and a gate. The school yard and the school field were secured with gates, walls and fencing.
- The toys and equipment were free from pinch and crush points.
- The high shelving units in the care room were secured to the walls.
- There were no ponds, pits or other hazardous areas in the outdoor area.
- The fire exit doors were unobstructed.
- The hot water in the wash hand basins used by the children was recorded at a safe temperature of 35.3°C.

Requirement not met: The blinds on the five windows in the care room had unsecured dangling cords which posed a risk of choking if accessed by the children.

Response from Provider: Photographic evidence was submitted and the response stated that all the blind cords on all five windows have been secured.

Summary Comment: The requirement under Regulation 23 has been met.

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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:

- (1) The person in charge of the service has up to date First Aid Response certification.
- (2) (a) There was a first aid box available in the care room, this was appropriately stocked and was accessible to the adults.
- (b) The first aid box was available in the care room.

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) The registered provider had a means identified on how all fire drills are recorded. The fire assembly point was identified in the external area to the side of the building.
- (b) The servicing of the firefighting equipment was last completed in March 2025. A service record was available for the fire detection and alarm system dated August 2024.
- (4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed at the entrance door.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

An insurance certificate with an expiry date of 27 March 2026 was available which indicated insurance cover for 22 children attending on a sessional basis.

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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.

Requirement met:

- (a) The service is located in a care room within a well-maintained national school building. The building appeared to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The doors to the service are secured which ensured that no child could leave the service and no unauthorised person could gain access to the premises. The designated outdoor space is secured by a timber railing and a gate, and the school yard and field are secured with walls, gates and high fencing.
- (c) Natural and artificial lighting was provided in the care room. The artificial lighting was provided by covered fluorescent lights. The rooms were heated by gas fired thermostatically controlled radiators. A service record for the heating system was available which indicated the most recent service was carried out on 7 January 2025. The care room temperature on inspection was recorded at 21.3°C which is within the appropriate limits. This would afford the children comfort when playing and doing activities. Natural ventilation was provided through openable windows throughout.
- (d) The premises was clean, well maintained and appeared to be in a good state of repair.
- (e) There were two children’s toilets, and two wash hand basins provided. There was one toilet with one wash hand basis available for the staff.

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 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.

Requirement met:

- (1) The registered provider has ensured adequate clear floor space is available to the children attending.
- (2) The space available measured 52m² which was sufficient space to accommodate the proposed 22 children to attend on a sessional basis.