

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2022CE001
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Clooney Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Clooney NS, Knockanourna, Tulla, Co. Clare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V95 WC56
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Olga O'Malley
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	10/11/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	12	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Ennis Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J Hayes
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This sessional service operates in a classroom in Clooney primary school. It is registered for up to a maximum of 22 pre-school children, between the ages of 2 years and eight months and 6 years. The service is open from 09.15 to 12.15 hours Monday to Friday. The service accommodation comprises of one playroom, children's and adult sanitary facilities, a small enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises and an enclosed playing field. Parking for drop off and collection of children is to the front of the premises.

### Staffing

Four adults are employed by the service. On the 10 November 2025 the registered provider, the person in charge and a third adult worked directly with the children. The registered provider provides a managerial, administrative and a childcare role. The adults held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4)

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (3)

Regulation 16(1)(h)(i) – Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 26- Fire safety measures (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 28- Insurance

Regulation 29 (c) Premises

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.

## Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provide, person in charge, staff and children 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

(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)

On the day of the inspection, the service manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b)

During the period of the inspection, the designated person in charge and the registered provider were present on the premises.

(2)

Four files were available in respect of the registered provider and the three adults working in the service. The findings included the following:

(a)

Seven written references from past employers were available for four adults.

(b)

One written reference from a source other than a past employer was available for one adult.

(c)

Garda Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available for the four adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Not applicable as no adult had lived outside the state for a period greater than six months.

(4)

The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

## 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.*

*(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

During the inspection, an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.

(3)

On the 10 November 2025, the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained. Three adults cared for the twelve children attending the service.

### 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:*

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

(h) A record of the daily attendance of each pre-school child was maintained by the service.

(i) A staff roster was available which indicated the adults working in the service on a daily basis.

### 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, and*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

#### Basic Needs of Children:

The children's learning, development, and well-being was supported by the adults working in the service. The programme of care and education was facilitated in one, large open plan room and in the outdoor play areas. The adults interacted with the children in a caring, kind and respectful manner. The adults listened attentively and conversed with the children at their level and responded promptly to their cues for assistance. Positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions, and the children were offered praise and encouragement. The adults demonstrated an awareness of the children's personal interests and capabilities.

The children were encouraged to be independent while caring for their belongings, their play materials and equipment. A soft seating area was used by the children to rest and relax. The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their age and level of development. The children and adults sat together and conversed amicably during mealtime. Mealtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable occasion, and children were provided with additional time if needed to finish eating their food.

### Physical and Material Environment:

The children engaged in open ended play and educational activities in the indoor and outdoor environments. The care room was bright and spacious and was adequately resourced for the age range and stage of development of the children. The transitions in the changes of activities in the room were facilitated with ease, as the adults notified the children in advance of any change in the programme of care and learning. The children played individually and as part of a group and chose their individual activities throughout the session. The adults engaged in open ended discussions and singing exercises, played individual and group games with the children and sat with the children as they engaged in constructive, manipulative, sensory and pretend play. Designated areas of interest with appropriate and accessible supporting materials and equipment were available to the children. The defined areas included a shop and home corner, sensory area, rest and reading area, low level units with a large quantity of imaginative, constructive and manipulative equipment and toys.

The outdoor areas offered space for the children to freely move from the indoor to the outdoor area and engage in a range of challenging, diverse, sensory, creative and enriching experiences for children. An enclosed area was accessed directly from the playroom at the rear of the building, and a large grass area was accessed by the children for a range of gross motor, running and ball games and nature activities.

## 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 to the service was secured to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.

- The outdoor play area was secured with fencing and a gate to protect the children within.
- The children's arrival and departure times were recorded in record books.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.

### Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in clean condition.
- The sanitary facility was equipped with running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, lined pedal operated bins.
- Handwashing by children was encouraged and supervised by the adults.
- The children's personal belongings were stored individually on hangers in the entrance hallway.

### Fire Safety:

- The fire exits and routes were clear from obstruction throughout the service.
- Fire drills were completed by the adults and children on a monthly basis.
- A fire assembly point was readily identifiable and identified by the adults working in the service.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

Two adults working in the service had a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was provided in the service.

(b)

The first aid box was available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency

## 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)

Records were available to demonstrate that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis in the service. The most recent fire drill took place on 3 October 2025.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system took place, respectively in March 2025 and August 2025.

(4)

Fire action notices were available demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for twenty two children attending the sessional service. The policy is valid until the 27 March 2026.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

#### Compliance Information

(c) The playroom was well lit with natural and artificial lighting and was well ventilated with openable windows. The playroom temperature was recorded at an appropriate level of 19.1°C.