

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023DR003
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Name of Service:	The Embassy Montessori Primary School
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Address of Service:	St. Bartholomew's Church, Clyde Road, Dublin 4, Ballsbridge, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D04PD71
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Name of Registered Provider:	Everina Keveny
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/05/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4/5 Nexus Building Block 6 A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne and C Kerrigan
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable.
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Description of service

The Embassy Montessori Primary School is a full day care, part time and sessional service located in Dublin 4. The service is located within a building located on the grounds of St. Bartholomew's Church, Ballsbridge. There is one care room located within the building with adjoining sanitary facilities. The outdoor area is located within the grounds of the church. The service caters for children aged 2 to 6 years, Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 18.00pm, 38 weeks per year. However, the service is currently operating from 8.30am to 1pm Monday to Friday.

The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme.

Staffing

The registered provider employs three staff within the service to include the deputy designated person in charge, and two childcare staff. On the day of inspection there was one external contractor present from 9.45am to 10.30am for children's exercise class. The deputy person in charge facilitated the inspection and the registered provider was present for the feedback meeting.

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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the regulations.

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

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2),
Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare.

The scope of the inspection was the Junior Class classroom.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, the deputy 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

(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

(2) During the Inspection, the files of three staff members and one external contractor were reviewed.

(a) One written and validated reference was available for three staff members and one external contractor from a past employer.

(b) One written and validated reference was available for three staff members and one external contractor from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting was available for three staff members and one external contractor. The service also demonstrated compliance, with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available in respect of one staff member and one external contractor who had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) The qualifications of three staff members were reviewed: Evidence available demonstrated that three staff members who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs (DCEDIY).

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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

(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,

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as follows:

On the day of Inspection, there were three adults working with 11 children for the morning session.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection as follows:

- Junior Class – 3 adults to 11 children aged between 2 to 4 years.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were always present on the premises.

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:

- The inspector observed the children having their lunches consisting of sandwiches, crackers, yogurts, cheese and fruit and water in bottles, all brought from home.
- The development of self-care skills of the children was evident for example the inspector observed the children tidying up their snack and placing their lunches and drinks on a trolley ready to go in their bags for taking home at collection time.
- There was provision of rest and relaxation for the children with a cosy chair and books available.
- During the inspection, the children demonstrated freedom of movement in the classroom providing opportunities for fine and gross motor development, for example, completing wooden puzzles, playing with magnetic shapes, playing with cars and trucks in a tough tray marked out with roads and on a road map rug on the floor, playing with plastic bricks and playing in a play tent.
- Children were supported in personal care, accessing toilets independently with supervision, whenever required, with facilities available for good hand hygiene.

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

- Children were supported to engage positively with play activities through positive affirmation from the three staff members, while completing the variety of activities available.
- During lunchtime, children were observed to sit in the care room to have their lunches independently in a comfortable and relaxed environment that promoted social interaction with their peers.
- The staff offered praise and gave children, both individual and group attention during the inspection, for example by sitting with the children during play time and lunchtime and giving positive guidance.

- The registered provider discussed with the inspectors that communication with parents is completed verbally at drop off /collection time, through a messaging application to include children’s weekly activities, parent teacher meetings held in January and February each year or when needed during the school year and through childrens Learning Journals created each school year.

Physical and material environment:

- The care room was welcoming and laid out with a variety of activities including low level shelving with materials as follows:
 - Montessori materials supporting the Montessori learning approach areas of practical life, sensorial, language, maths and culture.
 - home corner area with a play kitchen with appropriate supportive equipment such as toy food, delph, utensils.
 - art materials were set up with mark making materials, paper, and an art easel.
 - messy play area with supporting equipment for example sand in wooden sand tray with play equipment to include play diggers.
 - construction areas with plastic bricks, building blocks, magnetics, construction clicks, suction cup toys.
 - small worlds play areas with cars and trucks, road map rug and tough tray laid out as road network.
 - imaginary play – dress up clothes.
 - tabletop activities of sorting, threading, jigsaws, wooden puzzles, number puzzles.
- The children were observed to take activities of their choice throughout the session as all activities were available and accessible on shelving positioned at child height.
- There were Family display and Birthday dates display on the wall, promoting a sense of identity and belonging for the children.
- Artwork of handprinted rainbow clouds, painted paper plate chicks, creative paper plate jellyfish and a creative art wall were on display in the care room.
- The outdoor play area to the front of the service building in the church grounds was secure with a grass surface and the children were observed to enjoy long periods of outdoor play time to include their exercise class with the external contractor .

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:

- Access to the service via a door which operates on a buzzer system preventing unauthorised access into the service and unauthorised exit from the service.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children.
- Emergency exits in the service were clear and unobstructed.
- The pre-school children were supervised at all times during the session.
- Attendance records were present, completed and accurate.
- The play equipment and materials observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The temperature of the care room was recorded as 18.8°C at 11.08am from the service thermometer, within the recommended ambient temperature of 18 - 22°C.

Infection Control:

- The premises and equipment were visually clean.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Handwashing was completed after outdoor play, before meals and after toilet visits.
- Children's snacks and lunches which were brought from home were refrigerated on arrival to the service to prevent spoiling of perishable items.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were available for waste disposal.
- Adequate ventilation was available in the care room by means of openable windows and doors.