

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



Tusla I.D: TU2023KE005

Name of Service: Shining Stars Academy Ltd.,

Address of Service: Church Road, Athy Co. Kildare
R14D542

Email Address: shingstarschurchr@outlook.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Christine Bowden

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

Proposed service type: Full Day Care

Proposed Number of Children: 66

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)

66 children, aged 2-6 years of age, can be accommodated on a sessional and/or part-time basis between 08:30am and 13:30pm Monday to Friday. Planning restrictions dictate that the maximum number of children at any one time is restricted to 82 children.

Registered service: Registered Part Time / Sessional for 66 children.

Date of Inspection: 0 9 0 8 2 0 2 3

Inspection Undertaken by: F. Maher

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:
Early Years Inspectorate
Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre
Child and Family Agency
Ballymore Eustace Road
Naas
Co. Kildare, W91X38W

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Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

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| Registration Status: | Registered Part Time / Sessional for 66 children. |
| Date of Registration: | 25 th August 23 |

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).

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| Description of Service | <p>Shining Stars Academy Ltd,. is a private company that currently operates two full day care services and one school age service in Athy and is proposing to operate a third full day care service, catering for 66 children aged 2-6 years old. It proposes to open Monday to Friday from 07.30am-18.30pm for 51 weeks of the year.</p> <p>Sessional care and education will also be offered from 09:30am-12:30pm for 38 weeks of the pre-school year.</p> |
| Premises | <p>The service proposes to operate from a refurbished and redecorated single story premises currently registered to provide school age care on Church Road, Athy.</p> <p>Three pre-school rooms, sanitary facilities, including nappy change facilities, kitchen, office, and a large outdoor area are provided.</p> |
| Staffing | <p>The proposed registered provider has appointed a manager for the service and a designated person to deputise as required. It is proposed that seven childcare staff will be working in the service when the full capacity of 66 children is reached. One chef is also employed in the service.</p> <p>All proposed childcare staff working directly with the pre-school children will hold qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.</p> |
| 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 four themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the Child, Safety and Premises.</p> |

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| | 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 the registering application. 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. |
| Acknowledgement | The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed person in charge and operations manager of the service 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a)

There is a designated person in charge and a named person will be 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The proposed registered provider has stated that there will be an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service. Seven adults are proposed to work directly with the children attending the service to ensure the required adult to child ratio is maintained. The person in charge will be supernumerary and available to oversee the management of the service and provide relief cover as necessary.

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, 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The pre-school rooms are bright and spacious and have a variety of age-appropriate toys and learning equipment available at an accessible height to facilitate a child-led learning environment. The rooms are constructively planned with clearly defined areas of interest including home corners, construction areas, mark making, small world and comfortable rest areas. A variety of play and learning materials included puzzles, jigsaws, interconnecting manipulative equipment, paint, paper, art and craft materials, animals, blocks, cars, dolls and an assortment of props for the interest areas.

The outdoor play area is suitable and secure. There are three distinct play areas provided for the children. A natural grass area provides space for children to run and play ball games, an area with a large wooden pirate ship, covered wooden sand room, swings, and a fairy garden, natural foliage and trees provide shade during the summer months. A small allotment for growing plants and vegetables is located in this area also.

The third area is equipped with an array of climbing equipment and slides.

An outdoor play policy is in place outlining the supervision required in the climbing area as some of the equipment is more suited to school age children and therefore will not be used by pre-school children.

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| | <p>(b) Comfortable rest areas with couches are available in each pre-school room.</p> <p>Low level sleep beds with individual bed linen are available for any child requiring a period of sleep when attending on a part time basis.</p> <p>(2)(a)</p> <p>The proposed service has access to a secure enclosed outdoor area to the rear/side of the premises. The outdoor play area is enclosed with a high-level metal fence and secured with a high level metal gate. The gate has an electronic securing mechanism in place to prevent a child from leaving unnoticed and to restrict unauthorised access.</p> |
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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

A healthy eating policy is in place in the service.

Parents will be asked to provide the morning snack for their child attending on a sessional basis. A chef is employed in the service and meals will be freshly prepared on the premises for children attending the part-time service. A four-week menu is available, and the meal and snack content is varied and nutritionally adequate.

Drinking water is available in the service and will be available at all times for the children.

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

Access to the pre-school service will be electronically controlled by staff at the main entrance gate to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. There is also an intercom system at the main entrance gate. There is sufficient storage space in the premises for cleaning materials, equipment and staff and children’s belongings. The

office and kitchen are inaccessible to children. The toys and play equipment provided are age-appropriate, clean and in good condition.

Detailed daily risk assessment documentation is in place for the indoor and outdoor environments to reduce/action any risk(s) identified.

Fire exits are easily recognisable and not obstructed. Individual fire assembly points are clearly identified in the outdoor area for each pre-school room.

Infection control

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted dispensers, are available in the sanitary accommodation for hygienic hand washing and drying. Foot pedal operated bins are located in the sanitary areas and pre-school rooms for the hygienic and safe disposal of used paper hand towel, tissues. Plastic aprons, gloves and a foot pedal operated nappy bin is in place in the nappy change area.

The premises is maintained in a clean and hygienic condition and detailed cleaning schedules are in place for all room environments.

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)

Current certification in relation to first aid response (FAR) training, is available for the manager and deputy manager that will be working in the service and expire July 2025.

(2)(a)(b)

Suitably equipped first aid boxes are available and accessible to children and are stored in conspicuous positions in each pre-school room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

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- (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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| Requirement met: | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>Documentation is available to record monthly fire drills.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>The firefighting equipment last service date was November 2022 and the fire/smoke alarm/detection system had evidence of quarterly servicing, last dated 29 May 2023.</p> <p>A service contract is in place.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are clearly displayed throughout the service.</p> |
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

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| Requirement met: | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The registered provider has evidence of insurance cover for Full Day Care with max. 80 children. The insurance cover is valid to 27/03/2024.</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

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| Requirement met: | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The proposed premises is currently in use as a registered school age service and has been refurbished and decorated and visually is in a state of good repair.</p> |
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| | <p>(b)</p> <p>The main entrance/exit gate to the premises is electronically secure and will be controlled by staff to prevent unauthorised access to the service and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. The outdoor play area is surrounded by high-level metal fencing preventing unauthorised access to the outdoor play area. Entrance/exit doors to the main building are secured on the inside with thumb turn locks.</p> <p>(c)</p> <p>The premises benefits from levels of natural light via large windows in room 1 and high level windows in rooms 2 and 3. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from recessed LED ceiling lights in each pre-school room. Window blinds are in place in room 1 to support a dimmed environment for the comfort of sleeping children when transitioned for sleep time as required.</p> <p>There are openable windows in each pre-school room and in the sanitary areas to provide natural ventilation.</p> <p>Gas central heating provides the heating in premises and wall mounted radiators are in place which can be thermostatically controlled.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>Daily cleaning schedules are in place for all pre-school room environments and sanitary areas.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>The sanitary facilities provided in the service include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six toilets and five wash hand basins designated for children’s use. • One nappy changing area with wash hand basin • One disability access toilet with hand basin is available for staff use <p>As advised to the registered provider, if the number of toilet trained children exceed 55 children, a further sink will be required in the sanitary accommodation adjacent to rooms 2 and 3.</p> |
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

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- (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.

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| Requirement met: | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1), (2)</p> <p>Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement for 66 pre-school children proposed to attend the service on a sessional and/or part-time basis as demonstrated below.</p> | | | |
| | Room | Room 1 | Room 2 | Room 3 |
| | Clear Floor Space | 42m ² | 45.5m ² | 41m ² |