

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2024CC003

**Name of Service** Cherryblossoms Creche Kanturk

**Address of Service:** Church Street, Kanturk, Co Cork.

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Ms Christina Dunstan

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

**Proposed change:** Increase in numbers from 72 to 127 children aged 0-6 years.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 127

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** 105

**Registered change:** Change in number of children from 72 to 105 children

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	7	0	8	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection undertaken by:** F Collins

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:**  
 13 Market Square,  
 Mallow,  
 Co Cork

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
 Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day care, Part-time and Sessional service for 105 children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2024

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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Cherryblossoms Creche Kanturk is a full day care service operated from the old Convent of Mercy primary school building located beside the Catholic Church in Kanturk.</p> <p>The service is currently registered to cater for 72 pre-school children and proposes to cater for 127 pre-school children with the addition of extra care rooms. The service is open from 07.00 to 18.30 daily.</p> <p>The registered provider will operate the early childhood care and education (ECCE) scheme for 38 weeks of the year.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The premises is a renovated primary school building and has been refurbished to accommodate an early years service.</p> <p>The premises to one side is single story where there are four care rooms primarily used for younger children where there is easy access to sleep rooms, toilets and nappy changing facilities. There is access to the outdoor space from the corridor and through the large Hall, where the children can play in poor weather.</p> <p>The care rooms for the older children and for the school aged care service are upstairs on the newer side of the premises and are accessed by a stairs inside. These rooms have sanitary facilities within the care rooms.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The registered provider is proposing to increase the staffing to 16 staff working directly with the children in addition to the administration staff, cook, maintenance staff and the registered provider.</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 the following 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 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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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.

**Requirement met:**

(1)(a) The requirements for this regulation have been met. The registered provider proposes to increase the staff for the increase in children proposed and to have 16 staff working directly with the children attending the service.

### 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 staffing identified by the registered provider for the service should ensure there are adequate staff available to the children at all times. The proposal is that there will be three staff working in each of the four care rooms downstairs and two staff working in the pre-school rooms upstairs that cater for the older children.

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(8) (b) & (c) Not applicable as the service proposes to operate as a full day care service and will have a minimum of two staff on the premises at all times

### 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.
- (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 (2) 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 preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

#### Requirement met:

- (1) (a) The registered provider proposes to open a further two care rooms bringing the total to six care rooms, the seventh care room proposed on the change in circumstances application was not ready for inspection and was not assessed for use.
- Room 1: The wobbler and toddler room, not subject to inspection, already in use.
  - Room 2: Subject to inspection, this room is proposed to cater for children aged between 0-2 years. There was suitable equipment for the age range proposed. The room was divided into areas of interest by shelving units and had suitable rest areas accessible to the children. A sleep room was adjacent to this room with direct access from the care room into the sleep room. The equipment promoted sensory, imaginary and fine motor development and there was access to books.
  - Room 3: Not subject to assessment as this room is already in use.
  - Room 4: This is a new room that has been developed on the second corridor downstairs, the proposal is for 22 children aged between 2-6 years to be accommodated for a sessional service and for full day care provision. The room was resourced with suitable toys for this age group with access to low level tables for

tabletop work, shelving for storage of children items and proposed direct access to a sanitary facility which is yet to be developed. Equipment for imaginary play and for reading were available.

- Room 5: This room is upstairs was not subject to assessment and was already in use.
- Room 6: This room is already in use and was not subject to assessment.
- Room 7: This room was not ready for assessment and will not be used. A change in circumstances application will be submitted when this room is ready for assessment.
- The outdoor facilities include tables, a football, child height goals and some play kitchens. There was access to a slide which landed onto artificial grass.

(b) The rest facilities in Room 2 and Room 4 were adequate and will be assessed when in use on the next inspection. Both rooms had an adult sized couch, soft matting and access to a tent for the children to opt out of activities.

Sleep facilities for the additional care rooms:

- Room 2: a sleep room was adjacent to this room with direct access from the care room to the sleep room. There were six standard cots available in the sleep room. The proposal is for the children to sleep when required and not at scheduled times.
- Room 4: This care room has the use of 16 stackable beds which can be set up in the tables and chairs section of the care room allowing play space and equipment free to the children who may not require sleep.

(3) (a) The service has access on the premises to an outdoor area. The area is accessed via the door on the back corridor and via the Hall. The outdoor area is a tarmacadam area with some artificial grass in the area where the slide is being used. The outdoor area also had a section that was covered to allow for playing outside when wet and there is access to ride on toys, a football and a set of goals.

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<b>Requirement not met:</b>	(1) (a) 1. The resources available in Room 4 did not promote sensory play and fine motor development. 2. There was no equipment or materials suitable for use by children under 2 years in the outdoor area who could not walk or mobilise independently.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	(1) (a) 1. The resources for sensory development have been purchased inclusive of sand trays and sand. 2. Additional equipment of sand and water trays and ride on toys have been purchased for the younger age group.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirements for this Regulation have been met and will be assessed on inspection.

### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The provision of food within the service is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The snack for mid-morning in the pre-school rooms is provided by parents/guardians.</li> <li>• The snack in the care rooms for the younger children is provided by the service.</li> <li>• The main meal in the middle of the day is provided by the service with a one-week menu plan in place that ensures adequate and suitable nutritious food is provided to the children.</li> <li>• Afternoon supper is provided for all pre-school children by the service.</li> <li>• Should children remain in the service after 5.30 they receive a snack prior to going home, which is provided by the service.</li> </ul> <p>The service has a working kitchen onsite and a person employed to prepare the meals.</p>
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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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:

- There is access to a fridge in both new care rooms. The fridges are accessible to the staff and children and will ensure the safe storage of perishable items contained in children’s snacks.
- There is access to hot water, liquid hand soap and to paper towels at each of the children’s and adult wash hand basins.
- There is hot water at the sink in room 2 and hot water in the sinks adjacent to room 4 with a plan to bring hot water into the care room.
- Gloves, aprons and access to a sink are available at all three nappy changing areas.
- There are lidded pedal operated bins available for the disposal of the used paper towels in the toilets.
- The kitchen is not accessible to the children.
- There are no full-length glass doors that might pose a risk to the children.
- The toys and equipment assessed are free from pinch and crush points.
- The high shelving units are secured to the wall and could not be pulled down easily.
- The blinds on the windows in the care rooms were high and out of reach of the children in all rooms.
- There are no ponds, pits or other hazardous areas in the outdoor area.
- All electric cords and cables observed are in good condition.
- Kettles are stored in the kitchen area and in the staff room and are not accessible to the children.
- The swinging door from the Hall to the outdoor area could be secured with a latch mechanism.
- The fire exit doors were unobstructed on inspection.
- The firefighting equipment was safely tethered to the walls throughout.

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<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The cleaning agents are stored in the presses under the sinks in both room 2 and room 4, these presses were not secured to prevent children accessing the cleaning agents.</li> <li>2. The surface radiator temperatures could not be assessed as the boiler was not in working order.</li> <li>3. There were no hand towels available to the children for use in the toilet area at the end of the second corridor downstairs where there were four toilets, these were used by the children using the outdoor area and using the Hall.</li> <li>4. The hand soap in the toilets at the end of the corridor was accessible on top of the lidded bins, making the bins inaccessible to the children for the safe disposal of hand towels.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The cleaning agents in Room 2 and Room 4 have been moved to top presses. Sign have been placed on presses to inform staff not to store cleaning agents in low level presses.</li> <li>2. The boiler has been fixed and has been certified by the plumber as not heating the radiators to a temperature above 50°C. the certificate from the plumber has been received.</li> <li>3. A hand towel dispenser has been fixed to the wall with easy access for the children.</li> <li>4. Hand soap dispensers have been fixed to the wall at a height accessible to the children.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Summary Comment:</b></p>	<p>The requirements for this Regulation have been met.</p>

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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) There are adequate staff trained in First Aid responder (FAR) First aid. The registered provider has stated the roster will be covered at all times with a first aid qualified staff member.
- (2) (a) & (b) There were first aid boxes available for each of the additional care rooms.

### 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 has a recording system in place for recording the fire drills that will take place onsite.
- (b) The records for the maintenance for the firefighting equipment was available. The firefighting equipment was serviced on May 2024. The fire alarm system was serviced on 12.07.2024.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed on the walls throughout.

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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The service is insured to cater for 72 children and a proposal for 127 children was seen on inspection, proposing to commence on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### 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 appeared to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The main entrance is the entrance planned to be used for the children and parents/guardians on the downstairs corridor to enter and exit the premises. The inside door is secured by keypad locking system.
- (c) The lighting for all care rooms is by windows and ceiling fluorescent lights. The toilets are lit by artificial lights and through windows. This level of lighting would allow the children to carry out activities without shadows.  
  
All six care rooms and two sleep rooms are heated by oil fired central heating. Care room 2 was comfortable at 19.7°C. The temperature of care room 4 was recorded at 18.1°C.  
  
Ventilation in both new care rooms and the one additional sleep room is through openable windows. The children’s and adult toilets are ventilated through openable windows.
- (d) The premises was clean, well maintained, and appeared to be in a good state of repair.
- (e) There are 10 children’s toilets currently in the building with 2 additional toilets to be added in the sanitary area off Room 4. There are three nappy changing facilities. Six of the children’s toilets are downstairs. Downstairs there is access

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	<p>to three nappy changing units. Each of the toilets/nappy changing units have close access to wash hand basins.</p> <p>The premises are attached to the mains waste for the town of Kanturk.</p>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p>(b) The dedicated outdoor play area has a high wall and a gate, a second lock on the gate to prevent unauthorised access into the premises was not on the gate. A lock to prevent the children exiting without supervision was on the gate.</p> <p>(e) Access to an additional nappy changing station for the children being cared for on the main corridor is required as there is planned to have 38 children in an age group where they would all be in nappies.</p>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<p>(b) The external gate is now double locked to prevent unauthorised access.</p> <p>(e) An additional nappy changing unit has been developed on the ground floor</p>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirements for this regulation have been met.

### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

	<p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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).</p>
<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>(1) The registered provider has planned for there to be adequate space to be available to the children in each of the two new care rooms assessed.</p> <p>(2) The care room space is as follows:                  Room 2: for use by children aged 0- 2 years, this room measured 39.86SqM.                  Room 4: for use to care for children aged 2- 6years. This room measured 72.68SqM.</p> <p>Room measurements from the previous fit for purpose inspection:</p>

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- Room1: 47.25SqM
- Room 3: 39.67SqM
- Room 5: 61.7SqM.
- Room 6: 60.1SqM.

The space as indicated above will allow for the care of 105 pre-school children.

(4) The registered provider when providing:

- (b) The sessional service and
- (c) The full day care service

The minimum floor space is available for 105 children.