

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	<b>TU2024DR006</b>
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	The Early Years Academy Ltd
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	The Old School House Kill Lane Deansgrange County Dublin A94FC44
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<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:hello@eya.ie">hello@eya.ie</a>
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<b>Name of Proposed Registered Provider:</b>	Kim McCarthy
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<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Proposed service type:</b>	Part-Time
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	58
<b>Outcome of the F06 Inspection</b> (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Sufficient clear floor space is available to accommodate 55 children aged 2 to 6 years on a part-time day care basis as detailed under Regulation 30. The provider proposes to operate between 8.30am and 1.15pm Monday to Friday, 51 weeks per year. <b>The number of children allowed to attend however is capped at 33 until the requirements of Regulation 29 (e) are met as detailed under Regulation 29.</b>
<b>Registered service:</b>	Part Time Service 33 children

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	2	1	2	2	0	2	4
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<b>Inspection Undertaken by:</b>	Olivia Quill
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector

<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Tusla – Child & Family Agency Loughlinstown Health Centre Loughlinstown Drive County Dublin` A96P3Y6
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<b>Rationale for Inspection</b>
<b>Proposed New Service</b>

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Part Time Service 33 children
<b>Date of Registration:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> December 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>	The proposed private childcare facility aims to provide Part-time day care for children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The proposed hours of operation are from 8.30am to 1.15pm for 51 weeks of the year. The provider will operate the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from are 9.30am-12.30pm.
<b>Premises</b>	The premises formally a Gaelscoil has been purposefully adapted to accommodate a childcare facility. It is located at ground level in an urban area of Deansgrange south county Dublin. Three care rooms are provided and a kitchen. An enclosed outdoor space is available to the rear of the premises.
<b>Staffing</b>	The provider has appointed a manager and deputy manager for the service. Additional adults are being recruited.
<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 four 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 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.</p>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and staff member who were present on the day of the inspection.

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### 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) The provider has ensured that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise when 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) An adequate number of adults have been recruited to work in this service. A manager and deputy manager have been employed. The provider stated that they intend to employ more staff members to work directly with the children once registration is approved. The provider demonstrated an understanding of the minimum number of adults required to work with children.

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:**

(1)(a) Adequate and suitable facilities for play indoors was provided in the three care rooms. The rooms were laid out with suitable play equipment and materials appropriate to the age of children proposed to attend. These included home corners, arts and crafts areas, messy play areas, Montessori materials, construction equipment and books. The rooms had storage cabinets which included an assortment of puzzles and table-top toys. Suitable age appropriate tables and chairs were provided.

(1)(b) Areas were available within the rooms where children could rest or take a break from activities. These were situated in the corners of the rooms and consisted of soft matting and cushions. Low level beds were available should a child require to sleep.

(2)(a) An outdoor play area was available to the rear of the premises. The area was secure and had both an artificial grass surface and a concrete surface. A selection suitable play equipment including ride on toys, sensory toys and balls were available. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area.

**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 was available. The service proposes that the parents of the children will provide a packed lunch and the service will provide a morning snack. A kitchen with a fridge was available for the storage and preparation of food.

The service proposes children will have their own individual water bottle which will be topped up as required by staff.

**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.

External doors are secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The outdoor area is suitably secured.

All window blind cords were secured and windows have been fitted with fire-safe restrictors.

Protective radiator covers have been provided where required.

Emergency exits are clear and the location of the fire assembly point was marked.

There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins throughout the service.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) A completed First Aid Responder certificate was provided for one staff member and the proposed manager is in process of completing First Aid Responder (FAR) training. Written evidence was shown to the inspector.

(2)(a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the service. It was clearly identifiable and readily accessible.

### 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The provider has indicated that fire drills will be carried out and a system was in place to record the details.

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	<p>(1)(b) There is a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment and for the commissioning and servicing of the fire detection and alarm system.</p> <p>(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed conspicuously throughout the service and the fire assembly point was identified.</p>
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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 requirement has been met.

Evidence of insurance for the required number of children was available. The insurance was valid from the 01 November 2024 until the 13 October 2025.

Registration of the service is contingent on the registered provider's compliance with Regulation 28.

### 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:

The requirement has been met.

(a) The proposed service is located at ground level in a purposefully adapted premises and appears to be of sound and stable structure.

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	<p>(b) The proposed provider have taken appropriate measures to safeguard the premises. All external doors and gates were locked to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving unsupervised.</p> <p>(c) The premises benefits from natural light via windows in all care rooms. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from covered fluorescent ceiling lights in the rooms. Blinds have been fitted to control light levels when required in all rooms. Gas central heating is provided. Windows in the care rooms can be opened and mechanical ventilation is provided in the sanitary areas. The ambient room temperatures were measured and recorded between 18.6 and 20.9. degrees Celsius.</p> <p>(d) The premises and its environs are clean and well maintained. A system is in place to record cleaning completed.</p>
<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p><b>Requirement not met</b></p> <p>(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities are not available for the proposed number of children. In total three toilets and four wash hand basins are designated for children’s use and there is one nappy changing station and wash hand basin. However, to accommodate the proposed number of children an additional toilet and wash hand basin is required.</p>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>We expect to have low numbers before September 2025 that would mean what is in place is more than sufficient for that period. Can you issue a report that permits a number of children based on what is currently in place and we can then refurbish the bathrooms and add the toilet ahead of September 2025. We can do a change in circumstances or whatever is required to apply for a higher permitted number once the work is done. It will not be feasible to do any change to the bathroom ahead of our planned opening.</p>

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<b>Summary Comment:</b>	Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities are available for 33 children. The registered provider has agreed to cap the number of children attending to thirty-three children until an additional toilet is installed.
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### 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 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p><b>The requirement has been met.</b></p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space was provided for the work, play and movement of the of children as demonstrated below.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Room 1 (Junior Montessori)</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Clear Floor Space available m<sup>2</sup></b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>30.6 m<sup>2</sup></b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Room 2 (Toddler room)</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Clear Floor Space available m<sup>2</sup></b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>47.2 m<sup>2</sup></b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Room 3 (Senior Montessori)</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Clear Floor Space available m<sup>2</sup></b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>50.2 m<sup>2</sup></b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Room 1 (Junior Montessori)</b>	<b>Clear Floor Space available m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>30.6 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Room 2 (Toddler room)</b>	<b>Clear Floor Space available m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>47.2 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Room 3 (Senior Montessori)</b>	<b>Clear Floor Space available m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>50.2 m<sup>2</sup></b>
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(2) There was sufficient clear floor space to accommodate 55 children in respect of their age range on a part-time day-care basis.

\* However, the number of children allowed to attend is capped at 33 children until the requirements of Regulation 29 (e) are met.