

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

**Tusla I.D:** TU2024WX001

**Name of Service:** Little Oaks Academy Limited

**Address of Service:** Raheenagurren East, Courtown Road, Gorey, Wexford

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

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Paula Driver

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

**Proposed service type:** Full day care

**Proposed Number of Children:** 39 children

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection**  
Full day care  
7.30am-6.30pm  
1 to 6 years of age.  
39 children.  
51 weeks per year

**Registered service:** Registered Full Day Care Service for 39 Children

**Date of Inspection:** 0 9 0 5 2 0 2 4

**Inspection Undertaken by:** C. Ryan

**Title:** EYI

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Tusla Child and Family Agency Early Years Inspectorate  
Ely Hospital Ferrybank Wexford

<b>Rationale for Inspection</b>
<b>Proposed New Service</b>

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Full Day Care Service for 39 Children

**Date of Registration:** 14<sup>th</sup> June 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>	Little Oaks Academy Limited proposes to operate a full day care service for children aged between 1 to 6 years of age and accommodate 39 children at any one time on the premises. The services propose to open from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday, 51 weeks per year. The registered provider has a full day care in Ramstown estate Gorey called Little Oaks Academy.
<b>Premises</b>	The premises is a purpose-built bungalow, which previously operated as a preschool service. The service consists of three playrooms, bathrooms, a sleep room and kitchen. Outside there is an enclosed garden.
<b>Staffing</b>	The registered provider has employed two staff to work in the service and will increase staffing as required.
<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 who was 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 of the regulation is met.

The registered provider has employed a staff member as the designated person in charge. There is a second named staff member employed who 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 of the regulation is met.

The registered provider is familiar with the Child Care Act 1991 (early years services) Regulations 2016, Schedule 6 Staff: Child ratios and will ensure that there are always adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service.

### 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 of the regulation is met.

(1)(a)

	<p>The three playrooms provide sufficient space to play for the proposed number of children. The early years rooms are warm, clean and lit by natural light. The rooms are set up and equipped with toys and materials suitable to the ages and stage of development of the children proposed to use the rooms.</p> <p>(1)(b)</p> <p>Provisions are in place for children to rest and sleep while attending the service. There is a designated sleep room with four cots available. There are sleep mats and the rooms have quiet corners for children to sit and rest or opt out of an activity if they choose.</p> <p>(2)(b)</p> <p>The outdoor play area consists of a variety of spaces enclosed to the rear of the property, including grass/lawn, all weather soft surface and concreted areas for ride of toys. there is a smaller cordoned off area for younger children. There is large playhouse with slides and climbing frames.</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 of the regulation is met.

The service has a healthy eating policy. Parents will be asked to supply the mid-morning snack for their children. These will be stored in fridges in the playrooms. The service will provide the main hot meal and afternoon hot snack for the children. The service plans to use an outside catering company to supply these meals and will provide parents with a 2/3-week menu plan. Additional supply of snacks will be available in the event that a child requires extra food or forgets their lunchboxes. The registered provider will engage directly with the Environment Health Office (EHO) to ensure food safety standards and that the kitchen is suitable.

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### 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:

##### Infection control:

Warm water for hygienic hand washing is available and thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C. The service is clean and well maintained, with cleaning schedules ready. There is a robust pest control contract in place.

##### Administration of medication:

There is a policy on the safe administration of medications to children attending the service. An area for the safe storage of medication has been identified.

##### General safety:

The front entrance to the service is secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining access to the building. The service and outdoor space are large enough to accommodate the number of children attending the service.

#### Requirement not met:

##### General safety:

1. The side boundary wall between the premises and a private resident was not fully secured. A temporary metal fence with green mesh was in place. The fence posed as a risk if it fell over.
2. The swing in the garden was old and no longer suitable for use. It was not secure in the ground.
3. Old toys and climbing frames which were broken and showed signs of wear and tear, were not suitable and required removal.

##### Infection control:

4. Handtowels and liquid soap were not available in the bathroom.

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	5.The door on the toilet in the large play room did not fully close in line with infection control measures to contain infection.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	1.A new fence has been put place. A further plan to replace the fencing surrounding the entire outdoor area is in place. 2.The swing has been replaced. 3. Old toys were removed. Repairs were carried out where needed. 4.Handtowels and soap dispensers are in place. 5.The toilet door is now fully enclosed.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The registered provider submitted a response with photographic evidence that demonstrates the requirement is met.

### 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 of the regulation is met.

- (1) Documented evidence was available to demonstrate that staff were currently trained in FAR first aid for children and will be always present on the premises.
- (2) (a)(b) A suitable and fully equipped first aid box was available on the premises and stored in an easily accessible place for staff.

### 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 of the regulation is met.

(1)(a)

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	<p>Record sheets are available on the premises for recording of fire drills and the registered provider is familiar with the requirement to carry out monthly fire drills.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>Fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms are present and contracts are in place for the regular service and maintenance of same.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the preschool rooms and the fire assembly point was clearly 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. Full insurance was provided to the Registration Office, covering a maximum 39 children on a full day care basis from 27/05/24 until 27/03/25.

### 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 registered provider stated that the premises appear to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) The front door entrance to the service is safe and secured.

(c) The playrooms are lit and ventilated by natural light through openable windows on external walls, supplemented by artificial lighting when needed. All sanitary

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	<p>accommodation has either mechanical or natural ventilation. The heating system is underfloor heating.</p> <p>(d) The premises are clean, well maintained and in good repair. The premises is freshly painted.</p> <p>(e) The service has adequate sanitary accommodation for the proposed number of children and staff who will be present with a nappy changing area, toilets and separate staff toilets available. There are five toilets available for the children and one staff toilet on the premises. There is one nappy changing unit.</p>
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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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>There are three playrooms available to the children. The three playrooms have sufficient space to accommodate the 39 preschool children attending.</p> <p>Room two measures at 39. 5sq.meters and can accommodate 21 children.</p>
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