

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2025KY001
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Cherryblossoms Knocknagoshel EY
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Knocknagoshel National School, Knocknagoshel, Co Kerry
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V92 HD00
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Christina (Tina) Dunstan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	14/11/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	4	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 13 Market Square, Mallow, Co Cork, P51 DD5Y
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N O'Donoghue
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector

### 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Cherryblossoms Knocknagoshel is located in a rural village in Knocknagoshel, Co Kerry. It is registered for part-time care for children from 2 years to 6 years and also caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE).

The service operates from a converted classroom within the local national school. The children's and adults' sanitary facilities are adjacent to the classroom. There is an outdoor area to the front, rear and side of the care room.

### Staffing

There were eight adults attached to the service on the day of inspection. This included the registered provider, two early years staff, four school aged childcare staff and one administrative worker.

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

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 inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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

*(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,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

*(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.*

*(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*

*(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

- (1)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and deputy person in charge on the premises on the day of inspection.
  - (b) A person in charge or named deputy person in charge were on the premises at all times during the operation of the service.
  - (c) There was a clearly identified management structure in the service. This included person in charge and deputy person in charge.
- (2) There are eight adults attached to the service; all eight staff files were open to inspection.
- (a) Of the 16 references required, 11 validated references were available from past employers.
  - (b) Of the 16 references required, 5 validated reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures has been obtained for all eight staff. 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 deemed to be required for one of the eight adults working in the service and copies of the relevant documents were maintained on file for the adult.
- (3) The registered provider ensured to carry out validations and checks prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4) The three adults working directly with children held relevant qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at least at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### 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) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2) On the day of inspection, the adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of the regulation.

- In the preschool room in the morning, there were three staff working with four children aged between 2 years and 3 years and 9 months, all attending sessional care.

(8)

(a) The registered provider ensured that there were at least two adults on the premises at all times during the service operation hours. This was evident through the staff rota.

## 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

##### Basic needs:

- Children's handwashing was supported and supervised by staff. This was observed prior to meals and after toileting.
- Parents/guardians provided a mid-morning snack for children attending the service. Snacks included rolls, wraps, fruit and yoghurts.
- Children had access to their individual water bottles throughout both days of inspection.
- Staff were observed supporting children with toileting when needed. Nappy changes were carried out at regular intervals throughout the day.

##### Supporting relationships:

- Staff spoke at the child's level in a calm, soothing tone. Children were at ease with staff and were comfortable in expressing their feelings and emotions to the staff members.
- Staff were observant of children's needs and were seen to comfort children when they were upset.
- Parents and guardians were updated electronically through a mobile childcare application and staff would communicate verbally at drop off and collection times.

##### Physical environment:

- The children were observed to freely move around the care rooms and outdoor areas. All children had access to the outdoor areas throughout the inspection.
- Children were encouraged to engage in a wide range of gross motor skills including jumping, running and bouncing.
- Fine motor skills were encouraged through puzzles, colouring and sorting activities.
- The care room was broken into clearly identified areas including construction, role-play, kitchen, creative and cosy corner.

- Sensory play was encouraged with sand play areas.
- Children’s artwork was displayed throughout the service.

### 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:

- The internal and external doors of the service were secured and prevented children from exiting the premises and unauthorised persons to access the service.
- Toys and equipment appeared in good condition and well maintained.
- Blind cords were securely out of reach of children.
- The openable windows were out of reach of children.
- Emergency exits were unobstructed.
- Cleaning materials were stored in cupboards and inaccessible to children.

##### Infection Control:

- Windows were open which allowed for fresh air circulation.
- Perishable food was observed in the refrigerators.
- Staff were observed cleaning tables and chairs between activities.
- Foot operated bins were available in the room and sanitary facility.

##### Administration of Medication:

- No administration of medication was observed on the day of inspection. Discussion with staff ensured staff were aware of the correct process for administering medication in the event it was required.

##### Fire Safety:

- Fire procedures were available in the room, staff were aware of procedures to follow in the event of an emergency.
- Fire equipment was available which included fire extinguishers.
- Fire exits were clear of any obstruction and clearly identified.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) It was evident from the staff rota that there was at least one staff member trained in First Aid Responder available on the premises at all times.

(2)

(a) The first aid kit was stored up high, out of reach of children and clearly identified in each room.

(b) The first aid kit was inspected and was suitably stocked for the number of children attending the service.

These were available for staff to attend to the children if required.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certificate for the service was furnished to the inspector. The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- The contact details for the insurance provider.
- The name and address of the service insured.
- The categories of insurance cover for the service.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27 March 2026.