

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015CC171							
Name of Service	Grainne's Montessori School							
Address of Service:	St Josephs Girls National School, Scartagh, Clonakilty Co. Cork, P85 AX90							
Email Address:	grainnesmontessori@hotmail.com							
Name of Registered Provider:	Gráinne O'Donovan							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time		Sessional	☒		
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	Change in service address from: Western Rd, Clonakilty, Co Cork P85 NN26 to St Josephs Girls National School, Scartagh, Clonakilty, Co Cork P85AX90 Change in hours of operation from 08:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 15:30 hours to 08:45 to 11:45 and from 12:00 to 15:00. Change in number of children from 44 to 22 children							
Proposed Number of Children:	22							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Grainne's Montessori School will be a registered early years sessional service catering for children aged from 2 years 6 months to 6 years (ECCE). Opening hours are from 08:45 to 11:45 and 12:00 to 15:00 Monday to Friday							
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Date of Inspection:	2	4	0	6	2	0	2	6
Inspection undertaken by:	M. O Reilly							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							

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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Department, Child & Family Agency, Hospital Gro Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co Cork P81 PD78
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Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	03 July 2026

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).

Description of Service	Grainne's Montessori School proposes to operate a morning and afternoon sessional service catering for children aged from two years six months to six years and for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The proposed opening times that the service will be carried out are from 08:45 to 11:45 hours and from 12:00 to 15:00 hours each day Monday to Friday.
Premises	The service will operate from a single storey detached modular building located on the grounds of St Josephs Girls National School. Facilities include a spacious classroom with designated children's toilet facilities. The staff have access to the staff toilets in the national school. There is an enclosed designated outdoor play area to the front of the premise.
Staffing	It is proposed that there will be two staff employed to work directly with the children when the facility opens in August 2026. The staff that propose to work directly with the children at the service will have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.
Methodology	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. 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.

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Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider/person in charge 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 has been met. (1)(a) A named person in charge and a deputy have been appointed for the service.
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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 registered provider will ensure there will be an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times while the service is in operation The adult to child ratios is proposed to be ensured as follows: The registered provider advised the Inspectorate that on opening, the playroom will cater for a maximum of 22 children aged between 2 years 6 months and 5 years, attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme with 2 staff in attendance.
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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—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises 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 requirements have been met. (1) (a) The room offers a wide variety of developmentally appropriate play and learning materials, which are visible and accessible at child level.
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The range of play resources includes Montessori play equipment and materials, different sized blocks, shape sorters, sensory toys, home and kitchen, art supplies, books and fine motor skilled equipment. The equipment and play materials are all functioning and maintained in good condition. There were adequate numbers of tables and chairs for the maximum number of children proposed to attend.

(b) Rest areas have been incorporated into the playroom, for any child that may require quiet time or space to relax during the day.

(2)

(b) There is a secure designated outdoor space available to the front side of the premise. The surface consists of a combination of bark mulch and cement. There is a selection of age-appropriate play activities available for example swings, slide, climbing wall and ride on toys to promote gross motor play. There was a number of child size wheelbarrows, blackboard and timber shop unit for imaginary play. There were a sand unit and a number of wooden child size tables with a flat plastic surface. These tables will be used for messy and sensory play such as water, dried coloured rice or pasta for group or singular play.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirements have been met.

- The parents/guardians will provide all the food and drink requirements for the children snacks as per the healthy eating policy.
- There will be potable drinking water available to the children while in attendance. Should a child become thirsty during the day, they will have access to their own reusable water bottles, which will be maintained within the care room.
- There is a fridge located in the playroom to store perishable foods provided by parents.

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 requirements have been met.

- The main entrance door to the service is adequately secured and the outdoor play area is adequately secured with a high metal fence and entrance gate.
- The entrance gate leads to the outdoor play area and to the premise. This is also the emergency fire exit route for the service. Following advice from a Fire Officer, the service is awaiting a coded gate pad lock to be installed at entrance gate. This will secure the outdoor play area and preschool building from unauthorised access by a person or the leaving of an unsupervised child. The registered

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	provider will send photographic evidence to the Inspectorate when the coded gate pad lock is installed prior to service opening on the 31 August 2026. • Fire exit routes are clear and fire exit signage is illuminated. • All toys and play equipment in the proposed playrooms are safe and in good condition. • At time of inspection there were no loose and accessible electrical cables located at child height in the service. • Foot pedal operated bins are available for the hygienic disposal of used paper towels. • There was a movable unit on wheels for the storage of children's coats and personal belongings. • The temperature of the water at the wash hand basins is thermostatically controlled, so as not to exceed 43°C. Recorded water temperature readings ranged from 30.2°C to 31°C. Warm running water, liquid soap and single use disposal paper towels are provided in the sanitary facilities. • Cleaning equipment and materials will be stored in areas that are inaccessible to children.
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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) Up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) certificates are on file for two staff members. The proposed registered provider is aware that a FAR trained adult must be available to the children throughout the hours of operation.

(2)

- (a) There is an adequately stocked first aid box stored in a conspicuous location at adult height in the playroom.
- (b) The first aid supplies will be consistently accessible throughout the hours of operation

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 firefighting 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:	The requirement has been met. (1) (a) The requirement is met in relation to the provision of a record for recording monthly fire drills. (b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment and wired smoke alarm were available on file. It was recorded that fire equipment and the mains operated smoke alarm system was last tested and serviced in April 2026. (4) A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is available in the service. Clear signage for the designated fire assembly point is visible.
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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. A record of insurance is available, for a maximum of 22 children to currently attend when the service proposes to open in August 2026. The record detailed the category of service covered which is sessional, the name and address of the premises and details regarding public liability cover, fire, theft, buildings, and outings cover. The insurance certificate is valid from 22 June 2026 until 27 March 2027.
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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.*

Requirement met:	The requirements have been met. (a) The modular building appears to be in a good state of repair. From a visual assessment, there was no visible signs of internal mould or cracks. (b) The main entrance door into the service and the door leading from the hallway to the playroom have internal locks in place on both doors. The outdoor play area is enclosed by high-level metal fencing and gate. (c) Adequate light in the care rooms and toilet facilities is supplied by a combination of natural light and covered ceiling lights with protective covers. There are electrically operated radiators in the playroom. The playroom air temperatures and sanitary air temperatures were recorded at between 20°C and 21°C during the inspection. Adequate ventilation is provided across the building, through a combination of openable windows at adult height.
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(d) Cleaning schedules templates were available, and all the play materials were clean and in good condition.

(e) There is a total of two designated toilets, and two wash hand basins provided for the children in the service. Staff will have access to the staff toilets located in the national school.

The premise is serviced by a public sewage system, and the water source is from a public supply.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *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.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space is ensured in the proposed playroom for the free movement of children, as they engage in play and learning activities.

(2) Sufficient clear floor space is provided, as per the following recorded room measurements and the proposed numbers and age ranges of children:
The playroom measured 72 square meters. The playroom has sufficient floor space for the proposed 22 (ECCE) early years children to attend the sessional service each morning and afternoon. The children will be aged between 2 years 6 month to 5 years. A maximum of 22 children (ECCE) with a minimum of 1.818m² of clear floor space per child can attend the proposed sessional service each morning and each afternoon.