

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC416
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	The Old School House
-------------------------	----------------------

Address of Service:	Gogginstown, Knockraha Village, Co Cork
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	T56 W085
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre O'Sullivan
-------------------------------------	--------------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	26/05/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	54	PM	41
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 13 Market Square, Mallow, Co Cork, P51 DD5Y
Inspection undertaken by:	N O'Donoghue & B Fraher
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

The Old School House is a private full day care service. It is registered to operate from 8.00am to 6.00pm daily. It currently operates from 8.00am to 5.30pm. The service offers the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE), full day care and school age care. It is registered to cater for children aged 0 - 6 years and is currently offering care to children aged 1 - 6 years. The service operates from a converted school building in a rural area, adjacent to a primary school. The service has two playrooms and two sleep rooms downstairs and two playrooms upstairs. There is one additional room with extra equipment and materials available upstairs which the Junior Preschool access. It also has outdoor areas to the rear and side of the building. The service is also registered as a multiple service and to operate as a school age service.

Staffing

The service employs 21 adults, including the registered provider and one student on work placement who was present on day of inspection. The registered provider is not based in the service.

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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Regulation 9 Management and recruitment
- Regulation 11 Staffing levels
- Regulation 16 Record in relation to preschool service
- Regulation 19 Health, welfare and development of child
- Regulation 22 Food and drink
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child
- Regulation 25 (1) First Aid
- Regulation 27 Supervision
- Regulation 29 (d) Premises

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8 Notification of change in circumstances. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Statutory Notices		
Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN1904	26/05/2026	One First Aid Response (FAR) trained person in the service was not available to the children at all times.
Status	The registered provider submitted a written response which was accepted by the Inspectorate.	
Improvement Notice IN1905	26/05/2026	One adult who worked directly with the children but was not present on the day of inspection did not have Garda vetting completed.
Status	The registered provider submitted a written response which was accepted by the Inspectorate.	
Improvement Notice IN1906	26/05/2026	The water temperatures in the two sinks in the children's toilets accessed by the Senior Preschool room were recorded to have temperatures of above 50 degrees Celsius.
Status	The registered provider submitted a written response which was accepted by the Inspectorate.	

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(3) Where a registered provider has been unable for good and proper reason to notify the Agency within the time specified in paragraph (1) or (2), as the case may be, of a change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2), the registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing of the change as soon as possible thereafter.

Non-Compliance Information

It was identified on inspection, that the service was operating outside of their registration status. The person in charge on day of inspection was different to the person in charge identified on the register. The registered provider was required to notify the Early Years Inspectorate of any proposed change in details prior to the change occurring.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider submitted a change in circumstance form and notified the Early Years Inspectorate of the change of person in charge. The registered provider will notify the inspectorate of any proposed changes in future.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of the approved change of person in charge was forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified under Regulation 8 has been adequately addressed.

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*

(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 on the day of inspection and there was a named deputy in the service that could deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge and the deputy were on duty at the service when the inspector arrived. The staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or the deputy were on duty at all times during the hours of operation.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that four new staff members had been employed since the previous

inspection. Four of these new staff members worked directly with the children. On the day of inspection, one student was present on an educational work placement programme.

A total of five files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for two staff members whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.

(a) Of the 10 required references, 2 were from a previous employer with the required record of validation on file.

(b) Of the 10 required references, 2 were from another source other than a previous employer with a record of validation on file.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained and were on file for six of the seven adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) There was evidence that one of the five adults who worked directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications. Three adults did not require a qualification as two were employed to work in the afterschool and one was a student. Three adults did not require a qualification as two were employed to work in the afterschool and one was a student.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a)(b) Six references were not available in respect of three adults working in the service. This practice was found to be non-compliant on previous inspections on 16 April 2024 and 13 October 2025. The corrective actions submitted following those inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

(2) (c) See statutory notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN1905 served. This practice was found to be non-compliant on previous inspections on 13 October 2025. The corrective action submitted following this inspection failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

(3) The registered provider did not carry out the procedures specified above prior to three adults being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with the children in the service. This posed a possible risk to the children's wellbeing. This practice was found to be non-compliant on previous inspection on 13 October 2025. The corrective actions submitted following those inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

(4) There was no evidence available to demonstrate that one of the adults held a qualification that met the minimum requirement of a level 5 award in Early Childhood Care and Education as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2) (a) (b) Copies of the validated references were put on file for the adults. References will be put on file prior to all adults beginning in the service.
- (2) (c) See statutory notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN1905 served.
- (3) A procedure has been put in place where all checks are carried out prior to adults beginning in the service.
- (4) The staff member's qualification was placed on file.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (2) (a) (b) Copies of the references were forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate.
- (3) A copy of the new procedure was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.
- (4) Evidence of the staff member's qualification was received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance's identified under Regulation 9 have been adequately addressed.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

- The Wobbler room in the morning, there were two staff working with seven children aged between 1 year and 10 months, all attending full day care. In the afternoon, there were two staff working with seven children.
- The Toddler room in the morning, there were 2 staff working with 11 children aged between 2 and 3 years, all attending full day care. In addition to this, one student was present in the morning. In the afternoon, there were 3 staff working with 12 children.
- The Junior Preschool room in the morning, there was 3 staff working with 14 children aged between 3 and 4 years, 3 of these children were attending sessional care and 11 attending full day care. In the afternoon, both the Junior preschool and Senior preschool rooms were mixed, there were 4 adults working with 22 children aged between 3 and 5 years.
- The Senior Preschool room in the morning, there was 3 staff working with 22 children aged between 4 and 5 years, 8 of these children were attending sessional care and 14 attending full day 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 and staff sign in.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

Compliance Information

(i) The staff roster for the week of inspection was available for assessment and two previous rosters were also available on request. A copy of the roster was received; the roster was in keeping with the staff working in the service on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

(a) No written record of the experience of one staff member was available for review. Not ensuring a written record of a staff member's work experience posed an impact to the care of the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff member's written record of their experience has been placed on file. All information will be placed on file going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of the staff member's curriculum vitae was forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified under Regulation 16 (a) has been adequately addressed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

(1) (a)

Basic needs:

- Staff supported children with toileting. Staff encouraged independence and provided support as required. Children's nappies were regularly changed throughout the day as needed.
- Children had access to soft tissues to clean their noses themselves. Staff were observed cleaning children's faces after meals and throughout the day.
- Drink bottles of water were brought in from home, children had access to these bottles at all times and were stored on child height shelving.
- Staff provided support to children that needed help when eating and children were encouraged to be self-sufficient.

Supporting relationships:

- Staff spoke with children at their level, in a calm and relaxed tone. Children were at ease with staff and were comfortable in expressing their feelings and emotions to the staff members.
- Children engaged in parallel play and were observed to check in on their friends and include them in play.
- Staff were asking children if they wanted to participate in cleaning up, children were observed to freely get the dustpan and brush and support staff with clean up after free play.
- During mealtime staff sat at the table and engaged in social conversations with the children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

Compliance Information

The snacks and hot meals were provided by parents/guardians of children attending the service. Perishable foods were stored in refrigerators around the service. Snacks and meals were served at appropriate times throughout the day.

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 accessing the service.
- Blind cords were securely out of reach of children.
- The openable windows were out of reach of children.

Infection control:

- Windows were open which allowed for fresh air circulation.
- Perishable food was observed to be stored in the refrigerators.
- Staff were observed cleaning tables and chairs between activities.
- Handwashing was conducted regularly throughout the day, after toileting, nappy changing, outdoor play and before meals.

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.
- All medication observed on the day was in date and out of reach of children.

Safe sleep:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Adults were observed conducting physical checks on sleeping children every 10 minutes in the Wobbler sleep room and were observed to record these on the online application.
- Staff were observed supervising children sleeping on stackable beds.

Fire safety:

- Fire equipment was available which included fire extinguishers.
- Fire exits were clear of any obstruction and clearly identified.

Non-Compliance Information

General safety:

- See statutory notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN1906 served. This practice was found to be non-compliant on the previous inspection on 13 October 2025. The corrective actions submitted following this inspection failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.
- The air temperature of the Senior Preschool room was recorded at 27.7°C and the Junior Preschool room was 30.5°C while the children aged between 3 and 5 years were present in the rooms. This exceeds the recommended temperature range of 18°C to 22°C for children of this age. It is acknowledged that staff had opened windows, pulled down blinds where available and obtained a cooling device and fans but temperatures were unable to be reduced and increased throughout the morning. It is also acknowledged that the children from both Senior Preschool and Junior Preschool were moved to a cooler room in the service, recording a temperature of 21.9°C at the request of the inspector.
- A ride on car in the outdoor area was cracked and had sharp edges. This posed a risk of injury to children.

Safe sleep:

- One child under the age of 2 years was observed to be sleeping on stackable beds in the Toddler sleep area. This is not in line with Tusla safe sleep guidance document. Children under the age of 2 years are not permitted to sleep on stackable beds. The person in charge was made aware of this and redirected to the safe sleep guidance. This was identified as a non-compliance on previous inspection on 13 October 2025.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General safety:

- See statutory notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN1906 served.
- The service purchased fans to reduce the air temperature in the room and keep it cool. Black out blinds are closed each evening to keep the warm air temperature out and the cool temperature indoors.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

3. Broken toys in the outdoor area were removed following the inspection. Equipment will be monitored going forward.

Safe sleep:

4. Children under 2 years are not permitted to sleep on stackable beds. The service has reviewed the safe sleep guidance and will ensure to follow procedures. Sleep plans have been updated to the safe sleep guidance practice also.

Supporting documentation submitted

General safety:

2. Photographic evidence of the new fans were forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate.
3. The registered provider's statement was accepted by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Safe sleep:

4. Photographic evidence was received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance's identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) See statutory notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN1904 served. This practice was found to be non-compliant on previous inspections on 16 April 2024 and 13 October 2025. The corrective actions submitted following these inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

It was evident throughout the day of inspection that children are supervised at all times, this was observed by staff engaging in supervision by sight and sound. Staff supported children when required. This was observed both indoors and outdoors.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, the inspector observed the following which posed a risk of safety and infection to the children:

1. One window in the sanitary area for the Junior Preschool room was observed to have cobwebs attached. It is acknowledged that cleaning records were available however evidence that effective cleaning had taken place was not available.
2. A plug in the hallway downstairs was broken, and electrical cables were accessible behind the plug. This was identified on last inspection on 13 October 2025. The corrective actions submitted following those inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.
3. A radiator in the hallway in the Junior Preschool room was not fixed to the wall; it was observed to be hanging off the wall and loose. This practice was found to be non-compliant on the previous inspection on 13 October 2025. The corrective actions submitted following those inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.
4. The skirting boarding in the Toddler dining room was broken and visible debris and dust was gathering on the floor.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. All windows were cleaned to ensure cobwebs were removed. This will be monitored going forward.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

2. The plug downstairs was repaired following the inspection. The manager will ensure to conduct regular checks of the premises going forward.
3. The radiator was fixed to the wall. The manager will ensure to conduct regular checks of the premises going forward.
4. A new skirting board was purchased and replaced in the Toddler dining room.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence was received by the Early Years Inspectorate.
2. Photographic evidence was received by the Early Years Inspectorate.
3. Photographic evidence was received by the Early Years Inspectorate.
4. Photographic evidence was received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance's identified under Regulation 29 (d) have been adequately addressed.