

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR045
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Name of Service:	Sharavogue School
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Address of Service:	Upper Glenageary Road, Glenageary, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	A96 KF80
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Name of Registered Provider:	Betty Allen
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	13/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	141	PM	139
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency,
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill, Sarah Quigley
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).

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Description of service

Sharavogue School is privately operated and registered to provide full day, part time and a sessional care service for pre-school children. The age range of children catered is 0-6 years. The service operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 07:45 and 18:30.

The early years service operates from a three storey Victorian house in a residential area of Glenageary South County Dublin. Care is delivered across eleven rooms. In the main building the Baby, Wobbler, Toddler, Pre-School, and Romper rooms are located on the ground floor. The first floor caters for Montessori 1, 2 and Montessori 3. Three of the care rooms are based in two separate log cabins which are located to the rear of the service. These rooms are called T1, T2 and Montessori 4. The children were allocated to different rooms depending on their age and stage of development. A separate sleep room is provided off the Baby room. An outdoor play area equipped with a variety of play equipment and defined areas of interest was available for the children to use on the premises.

Staffing

On the day of inspection 37 adults worked directly with the children. This included a student who was on a work placement. The person in charge and deputy manager were available to provide additional support to staff as required. Additionally, two cook were onsite to prepare all snack and meals for the children attending. The registered provider does not work 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

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- Discussion with relevant staff

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

Compliance was inspected under regulations.

9 – Management and recruitment,

11 – Staffing levels,

19(1)(a) – Health welfare and development of child,

23 –Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,

however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29 – Premises and Facilities. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 (1)(a). As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Baby, Wobbler, Toddler, Pre-School and Rompers rooms.

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, managers, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

(2) Following a discussion with the person in charge and review of the staff roster and records, it was confirmed that 16 staff members commenced employment in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on 24 March 2025.

Documentation required under Regulation 9 (2), (3), (4) was reviewed in respect of the 16 staff members and one student as detailed below. In addition, Garda vetting was requested for review for a student who was present, seven staff members employed to work in the school age service and seven staff members whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal.

(a) Of the 34 references required, 27 written and verified references were available from past employers.

(b) Seven written and verified reference was available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 16 staff members a student and seven staff employed to work in the school age service. The registered provider adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined

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in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Documentary evidence showed that 14 staff members had lived in a state other than Ireland for more than six consecutive months as adults. International police vetting from the relevant countries was available for 14 staff members.

(3) All the required recruitment procedures were carried out prior to staff being appointed to work directly with the children.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the 14 staff members employed to work directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications, qualifications for one staff member, which did not meet this criteria, had been assessed by the Minister for the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) and a letter of temporary qualification recognition was provide until the 01 September 2026.

Non-Compliance Information

(4) One staff member did not have a completed childcare qualification. It's acknowledged the manager provided email evidence to confirm the staff member was enrolled in a QQI level 5 qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education course.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(4) Confirmation of course completion was received from the college on 12/6/2026 confirming the staff member had completed her course successfully and received her Level 5 qualification. Staff without a DCEDIY qualification will no longer be placed in a room until they have received their final certificate or a temporary letter of eligibility from the DCEDIY to enable them to work while studying.

Supporting documentation submitted

Confirmation of completed level 5 qualification submitted for staff member.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions stated. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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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.

(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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 141 children attending the service being supervised by 36 adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two staff members on the premises throughout the inspection. The staff roster provided for a minimum of two staff to be on the premises at all times of opening.

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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) The registered provider ensured each child's learning, development and wellbeing was facilitated within the pre-school service as evidenced by;

Throughout the inspection children moved freely within their allocated rooms and in the outdoor play area, engaging in free play and activities. Staff interactions with children were observed to be warm, kind and respectful. Staff members sat with children and engaged positively with them during a range of activities, including reading and tabletop activities. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently. Younger children's nappies were changed as required. Staff engaged positively with the children during these routines, supporting communication and ensuring children felt comfortable.

Meals and snacks were provided at regular intervals. At lunchtime children were served shepherd's pie, the atmosphere was calm and relaxed staff sat and spoke with children during this time. Younger children were placed in highchairs for their meal; bibs were provided to protect their clothing. Drinking water was freely available in the care rooms and when children spent time outdoors.

Child-sized furniture was available throughout the rooms, soft matting and rugs were provided to allow children opportunities to rest. Children who required sleep were provided with cots or beds appropriate to their age and stage of development. Transitions to sleep was well managed by staff and children were observed to be familiar with the routine. They were made comfortable for sleep with their outer clothing and shoes removed and soothers given to those who used them.

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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.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The entrance door to the service was secured to prevent unauthorised access and to prevent children exiting unsupervised. Access to the service for staff is managed by a fingerprint recognition system.
- Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.
- There were no trailing flexes or cables observed and medicines were stored safely.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Children were supported to wash their hands after outdoor play, using the toilet and before meals.
- Suitable pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of waste.
- Nappy changing practice observed was completed as per the nappy changing policy.
- A system was in place to sterilise soothers and staff were familiar with the procedure. Soothers were stored in individual labelled containers.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated an understanding of the procedures to administer medication safely if needed including obtaining written parent /guardian consent. Detailed records were available of medicines given. These had been signed by the person who gave the medicine, a witnessing staff member and the child's parent /guardian.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff when spoken to were knowledgeable on safe sleep guidelines. All sleeping children were physically monitored and sleep checks were recorded every ten minutes by staff.
- The temperature of the cot room and other areas where young children were sleeping was maintained within the recommended range.

Fire Safety:

- Staff were familiar with the fire drill procedure when spoken to and a written record of monthly fire drills was maintained.
- The fire exits and fire assembly point were clearly marked and unobstructed.

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Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the outdoor play area, a nail was jutting out from a wooden fence and on the wooden bench seating provided posing a potential risk of injury to a child. Staff are to ensure that all damages noted in the daily risk assessments are brought to the attention of the manager on duty to relay the issues to the maintenance man to fix.
2. In the outdoor area the two-seater swing was observed to have a missing screw on one side of the wooden frame. The affected section had been secured with masking tape posing a potential injury risk to children should the frame come apart during use.

Infection Control:

3. In the Toddler room the vinyl cover on the two soft mats in the rest area were torn and therefore could not be cleaned effectively for infection control purposes.
4. In the Sanitary area off the Toddler room the laminate surface beneath the changing mat was chipped and could not be cleaned effectively.
5. In the Montessori 2 room the vinyl cover on the couch was torn and could not be cleaned effectively.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. In the outdoor play area both nails jutting out from the wooden fence and wooden bench was immediately removed. All benches have been risk assessed and replacements are planned where necessary.
2. The 2-seater swing has now been removed and a new swing has been ordered. The service remains committed to providing a safe, clean and well maintained environment for all children in our care. Procedures for regular safety risk inspections & maintenance checks continue to be implemented to prevent similar issues from occurring in the future.

Infection Control:

3. The 2 vinyl mats that were torn have been removed from the Toddler room and new mats and pillows purchased to update the cosy corner for the child to sit and relax when needed. All room mats will continue to be included on daily room inspections by our staff and any torn or damaged items will be noted for repair or replacement to our Compliance Manager.

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4. Sanitary areas are risk assessed daily and any repairs required will be reported immediately to the manager. Repairs are completed in a timely manner, those with the greatest safety risk being carried out first. We have asked all staff to look over the procedures we have in place for infection control.
5. The Staff will continue to check the environments daily for any damaged areas and rectify to ensure effective cleaning is enabled. The staff have been asked to notify the compliance manager immediately, if there are any repairs needed when carrying out the Cleaning and risk assessments.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of receipts for the purchase of new equipment and photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions stated. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

(d) The outdoor area was not maintained and repaired as evidenced by;

1. The wooden fence panel separating the play areas was in a poor state of repair. Paint was chipped off multiple panels, splintered wood exposed and loose fence panels were inappropriately secured with masking tape, posing a potential hazard.
2. The wooden picnic table was not adequately maintained. The table surface had visible cracks in the wood and the bench seating showed signs of significant wear and deterioration.
3. The wooden panel marked as the fire assembly point was damaged at the base, and a visibly gap was present posing a safety risk.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (d)
1. An immediate review of the outdoor garden was conducted. The damaged panels separating the play areas have been identified for replacement and any loose panels will be securely fixed and damaged areas replaced where necessary. All exposed and splintered wood will be repaired and repainted where needed. The outdoor

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area will continue to undergo daily risk assessments to identify any further damaged fencing, panels or wooden areas.

2. The wooden picnic table will be removed and replaced with a new one. Materials have been delivered and maintenance have scheduled plans for building a new table. To prevent this from happening again staff have been asked to notify the compliance manager if there are any repairs needed when carrying out risk assessments in the garden. Any repairs noted will be but in the handyman's book for prompt attention.

3. The damaged fire assembly has been repaired and the gap at the base has been eliminated to eliminate the safety risk. The outdoor area will be inspected to ensure all hazards are removed. To prevent this from happening again any maintenance issues identified will be addressed promptly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written and photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions stated. The Regulatory requirement has been met.