

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------|---|------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Tusla I.D:</b>                               | TU2015FL111                                                                                                                                                                                      |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |
| <b>Name of Service</b>                          | Hartstown Montessori School                                                                                                                                                                      |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |
| <b>Address of Service:</b>                      | Hartstown Community Centre, Hartstown, Dublin 15, D15 CY60                                                                                                                                       |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |
| <b>Email Address:</b>                           | giurgi.gabi@yahoo.com                                                                                                                                                                            |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>             | Maria Gabriela Bujoreanu                                                                                                                                                                         |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |
| <b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>                | <b>Full Day Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                             |   | <b>Part-Time</b>    | ✓ | <b>Sessional</b> | ✓ |   |   |
|                                                 | <b>Drop-In</b>                                                                                                                                                                                   |   | <b>Childminding</b> |   | <b>Temporary</b> |   |   |   |
| <b>Proposed change:</b>                         | To change session type from sessional only to sessional and part-time.<br>To change the hours of operation from 9:00 to 12:00 and 12:30pm to 3:30pm to one session 9:00 to 14:00.                |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |
| <b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>             | 15 Children                                                                                                                                                                                      |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |
| <b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b> | A maximum of 12 children aged 2 to 6 years attending on a part-time basis or 15 children aged 2 to 6 years attending on a sessional basis.<br>Hours of operation 9:00 to 14:00 Monday to Friday. |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |
| <b>Registered change:</b>                       | Change in service type from sessional to part-time & sessional<br>Change in number of children from 15 to 15 (12 part-time) children<br>Change in hours from 09:00 – 12:00 to 09:00 – 14:00      |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |
| <b>Date of Inspection:</b>                      | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                | 9 | 0                   | 2 | 2                | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | E. Griffin                                                                                                                                                                                       |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | Early Years Inspector                                                                                                                                                                            |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |
| <b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>  | Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8   X01F                                                                       |   |                     |   |                  |   |   |   |

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### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

|                             |                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Registration Status:</b> | <b>Registered Part-Time &amp; Sessional Service for 15(Max 12 Part-Time) Children</b> |
| <b>Date of Registration</b> | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026</b>                                                      |

### 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> | Hartstown Montessori Preschool is a privately operated preschool service which is located in North Dublin. The service currently provides early care and education to a maximum of 15 children aged from 2 to 6 years old. The proposed service will provide a part-time service from 9am to 2pm with a sessional service also offered daily from 9am to 12pm. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), and the proposed service will operate one Early Childhood Care and Education ECCE 9am to 12pm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Premises</b>               | The proposed service will operate from the ground floor of Hartstown Community Centre. There is access to sanitary facilities directly off the care room and there is an enclosed outdoor play area at the rear of the building.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Staffing</b>               | The registered provider proposes to employ a deputy manager and one adult to work directly with the children. The registered provider works in the service.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <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 the following 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 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.</p> |
| <b>Acknowledgements</b>       | The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 is met.

(1)

(a) The proposed service has a designated person in charge, and a named staff member is 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(a) a registered 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1) The registered provider states that an adequate number of adults works directly with the children attending the service. It is proposed that there will be up to 3 adults caring for a maximum of 15 children attending on a sessional basis between the hours of 9am to 12pm and 3 adults caring for a maximum of 12 children attending on a part-time basis between the hours of 9am to 2pm.

(8) (a) The registered provider will ensure that there will always be at least two adults on the premises.

### 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—

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*(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 requirement is met.

(1)

(a) The proposed care room will provide adequate and suitable facilities for the children in the 2 to 6 years age range to play indoors.

- There are defined areas of interest in the room. For example, a home area, an art area, a construction area and a role play area.
- Each of the area of interests is equipped with supporting props and there is an adequate supply of toys and resources available to support a range of play experiences including materials to support the Montessori learning approach for example practical life, sensorial, language, maths and culture.
- Toys and equipment are stored on shelving and are visible and accessible to the children.
- Furniture in the room is suitable for the age and stage of development of the proposed children.

(b) A cosy area is available with a soft mat, cushions, cuddly toys and a selection of books should a child require a place to for rest and relaxation. A sleep mat and a low-level stackable bed with bedding is available should a child require sleep. The service does not provide an overnight pre-school.

(2)

(b) There is an outdoor play area with an artificial grass surface available to the rear of the premises which is fully enclosed. A range of outdoor toys to facilitate physical play experiences for the proposed age range is available.

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### 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 requirement is met.

- Food will be supplied by the parents/guardians.
- The service has facilities to heat up food provided by parents/guardians.
- Perishable goods provided by the parents/guardians will be stored in the fridges in the care room.
- Water and an alternative snack if required will be available daily.
- There is a healthy eating policy in place.

### 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 requirement is met.

- Emergency exits are clearly indicated and are unobstructed.
- The play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the proposed children.
- All storage of waste both indoors and outdoors is inaccessible to the children.
- Cleaning products and anti-febrile medication were observed to be stored out of reach of children
- Liquid soap, dispensed paper hand towels and thermostatically controlled warm water is available to support hygienic handwashing.
- Cleaning schedules are in place and the care rooms were visually clean on the day of inspection.
- A daily checklist and risk assessment is available for the proposed indoor and outdoor play area identifying potential hazards.

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- Appropriate waste disposal units were observed in the care room and sanitary accommodation.

### 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 is met.

- (1) Documentary evidence is available that there will be a staff member trained to First aid Responder level available to the children during the operational hours of the service.
- (2)
  - (a) A suitably equipped first aid box is stored in the care room.
  - (b) The first aid box was easily accessible and available to adults.

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

- (1)
  - (a) There is a template available to record fire drills that will take place in the proposed service.
  - (b) A record is available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service. The firefighting

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equipment was last serviced on 01 December 2025, and the smoke alarms were last serviced on 04 June 2025.

- (4) There is a notice displayed in the care room of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire. A fire assembly notice was visible outside of the service to enable staff and children to identify the fire assembly point.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

The registered provider has evidence of an insurance quote to cover the proposed type of service and the proposed number of children to attend the service. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

### 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 is met:

- (a) During the inspection it was observed that the walls, flooring, doors, and windows were suitably maintained, and the inspector did not identify any safety issues or concerns.
- (b)
  - The entrance door to the service is secured adequately and monitored to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons from gaining access.

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- The outdoor play area is secure with a surrounding fence, and the gate is adequately secured.
- (c) The premises is adequately lit, heated and ventilated.
- Windows provide natural lighting to the care room. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights are fitted with protective covers and recessed into the ceiling.
  - Heating is provided through thermostatically controlled wall mounted radiators.
  - The care room had openable windows to allow for ventilation and the temperature of the room did not exceed the recommended ambient temperature of between 18-22°C.
  - The sanitary area is fitted with a mechanical ventilation system.
- (d) The care room is clean, maintained and in good repair. There is a cleaning schedule available to ensure regular cleaning of the premises.
- (e) There are adequate and suitable sanitary facilities available for the proposed number of children. One toilet and one sink are required in sanitary accommodation for every 11 children.
- There are two toilets and two sinks located off the care room.
  - Staff toilets are available within the community centre.
  - A further sink is available in the care room if required.

### 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.
- (4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—
- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

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(1) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the service.

(4) (a) The following clear floor space is available in the service:

| Room Name       | Floor space required per child                                                                                                                                                                                                | Floor space available as measured by inspector |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Montessori Room | 1.818 m <sup>2</sup> per child (aged 2 to 6 years) attending on a sessional basis.<br><br>2.35 m <sup>2</sup> per child (aged 2 to 3 years) and 2.3 m <sup>2</sup> per child (aged 3-6 years) attending on a part time basis. | 28.5 m <sup>2</sup>                            |

\*Calculated as per Schedule 7 Minimum Space Requirements Full day care and Sessional care service.

Based on the registered age profile of the proposed children attending the clear floor space of 28.5 m<sup>2</sup> can accommodate a maximum of 12 children on a part-time basis or a maximum of 15 children on a sessional basis.