

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE205
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Name of service:	Celbridge Montessori School
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Address of service:	The Slip Hall, Castletown Gates, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 TD37
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Name of registered provider:	Christina O'Riordan
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Type of service registered:	Sessional ☒	Part-Time ☐	Drop-In ☐
	Full Day Care ☐	Childminding ☐	Temporary ☐

Date of Inspection:	28/09/2022
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Date of Regulatory Enforcement meeting:	29/11/2022
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Number of pre-school children present:	AM	19	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child & Family Agency, Suite 7 Vista Primary Care Ballymore Eustace road Naas, Co. Kildare
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Inspection undertaken by:	Therese Duignan
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	8th August 2022 Part III, Article (8) Child Care Act 1991 Early Years Regulations 2016 The Registered Provider: • must operate within the terms of their registration at all times which is a sessional service for children aged 2-6 years for 22 children maximum at any one time. No amendment to the type of service offered and age range of children catered for should occur without prior sanction of the Early Years Inspectorate. The above condition is in place for 3 months until 8th November 2022.
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Description of Service	Celbridge Montessori School opened in 2015. The childcare service provides sessional education and care to pre-school children aged 2-6 years of age. The service operates from 8:50am – 11:50am Monday to Friday. The service is in the community church hall at the gates of Castletown House in Celbridge Co. Kildare. The premises consist of a large hall that is set up daily to accommodate the pre-school service. An outdoor play area adjacent to the preschool service is available to the children. Set down and parking facilities are available outside the premises.
Staffing	Three adults including the registered provider were present on the day of the inspection and they were all working directly with the preschool children. All adults employed and working directly with the pre-school children in the service had completed a major award in Early Childhood Care Education.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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 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. Inspections 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.
Additional Information	Part III, Article (8) Child Care Act 1991 Early Years Regulations 2016 The following condition was applied to the registration of the service on 8th August 2022: The Registered Provider must operate within the terms of their registration at all times which is a sessional service for children aged 2-6 years for 22 children maximum at any one time. No amendment to the type of service offered and age range of children catered for should occur without prior sanction of the Early Years Inspectorate. A regulatory breach of this condition was found on inspection. This condition expired on 8th November 2022. There was a regulatory enforcement meeting held with the service on 30th November 2022 due to continued operation outside of registration status.
Acknowledgments	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

- (1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed 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) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-compliance information:	(1) The registered provider was operating outside the registration status for the service as the service is registered as a sessional service for a maximum number of 22 children aged 2-6 years. On the day of the inspection, it was noted following documentary review of the attendance records that there were 24 children enrolled in the service for ECCE for year 2022/ 2023. <i>This was a non-compliance at previous inspections on 21 October 2020 and 23 March 2022</i> <i>A condition was attached to the registration status of the service on 8th August 2022 in respect of Part III, Article (8) Child Care Act 1991. A regulatory breach of this condition was found on inspection.</i>
Corrective & preventive action submitted by the registered provider	The registered provider stated that: <u>Corrective and preventive action</u> The registrations are being reduced by 2 children to reduce to 22. The room will cease to operate as 2 areas. Staff will be reduced accordingly. Time period – ASAP. <u>Supporting documentation submitted</u> No evidence submitted.
Summary comment	The written response submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance has not been met for regulation 8 as supporting evidence has not been provided. At the Regulatory Enforcement meeting on 30th November 2022, the service confirmed the continued operation outside of registration status with 23 children enrolled but confirmed there has not been more than the registered number of 22 children at any one time in the service.

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.
- (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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- A sampling process was used to review the records. The records of two adults recruited since the last inspection were reviewed.
- (2)
- (a) Two written and verified past employer references were available in respect of two adults employed in the service whose records were reviewed.
 - (b) Not applicable, as references were from past employers.
 - (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for two adults recently employed by the service.
 - (d) Not applicable, as no adult had lived outside the state for a period of more than 6 months as an adult.
- (4) Two adults recently employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level

	5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.
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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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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.

Compliance information	(1) There were nineteen children attending the service being supervised directly by three adults. (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.
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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

Basic needs of Children.

The service had a healthy eating policy; children's snacks were observed to be nutritious and healthy. Drinking water was freely available to the children although they could access their own drinks as they needed

Snack time was flexible in both areas; it was child led to encourage each child's independence and gave the children choice when they wanted to eat. The children were familiar with the flexible snack time routine. Staff members were present with the children during snack time period to maintain oversight and ensured that each child had eaten their snack. They were attentive to their needs; conversations and interactions between the children and the adults were observed to be relaxed and fun.

The children were encouraged to be independent, and they were supported by the staff members to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development including hand washing, toileting and caring for their belongings; assistance was given when needed. The staff members ensured that all children were dressed appropriately for outdoor play.

Pre-school children were observed enjoying freedom of movement within the preschool room and all children were provided with outdoor play on the day of the inspection.

The staff members were experienced and confident looking after preschool children. There was an emphasis on praise and encouragement to promote positive behaviour and children were spoken to in a kind and respectful manner.

Supporting relationships around child.

Children were observed to be happy, content and relaxed within the pre-school environments. The adults were very respectful towards the children in their care; positive body language, appropriate eye contact and gentle voice tones were used during interactions with the children.

The service has very good engagement with parents/guardians. The registered provider uses a closed group social media application to communicate with parents primarily. Email and telephone are also used as alternative communication methods with the parents; face to face meetings can be arranged by appointment when necessary.

Physical and material environment

The pre-school room environments were divided in to two distinct area by three resource units pushed together. They physical and material environments were designed to create interesting spaces to prompt children to engage in self-directed and imaginative play consistent with the Montessori approach. The areas of learning were practical life, sensorial, language, mathematics and culture.

Tables were prepared with activities and the low-level shelving units in the pre-school rooms ensured that the materials and equipment were freely available and accessible to children. Child sized furniture and equipment was in use in all the rooms.

The children were provided with outdoor play daily in an outdoor space adjacent to the building. There was adequate space for the children to run freely and engage in playground games. There were two large sand trays which were covered when not in use. There was plenty of sand and lots of props for the children to use in their sensorial play. Two tables were set up with bricks and wooden blocks, dolls house, cars and a variety of small world materials for imaginative play. Other equipment included chalk, slides and rockers. A wooden bench was available if children wanted to sit down.

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

Infection Control

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Air dryers were also available. Children were observed to wash their hands regularly including before snacks and meals, after cleaning their nose, after using the toilet, and after outdoor play. The children's handwashing was supervised by the staff members. Single use disposable aprons and gloves were in available in the sanitary area.

Foot pedal operated bins were in place in the two pre-school areas and sanitary areas to facilitate the hygienic disposal of used paper hand towel and tissues.

The premises were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Written cleaning schedules were displayed and maintained for the room environments including the outside play equipment.

The pre-school room and sanitary accommodation were ventilated with windows open.

General Safety.

The entrance door to the service were controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school rooms. The manager documented the inspectors visit to the service in the visitor's book on arrival.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

A risk assessment policy was in place for the service with oversight provided by the manager on behalf of the registered provider to ensure a prompt response to any risks identified.

This system includes:

- Daily written risk assessment of the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The manager maintains oversight of all risk assessments completed on a daily basis. This includes assessment and prompt management of any identified risks.

Administration of Medication

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. Medication was stored safely out of the reach of children. The staff members were aware of the administration of medication policy and the safe practices to follow when administering medication.

Fire Safety.

Monthly fire drills had been carried out and staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. Fire exits were not obstructed.

Outings

The service does not conduct outings.

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) There were sufficient numbers of persons trained in first aid for children to be immediately available at all times.

(2)

(a) The first aid boxes were stored out of the reach of pre-school children.

(b) A first aid box was readily available in the service.

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.

Compliance information

(1)

(a) A written record was available of fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was on 28 September 2022.

(b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment were last serviced in November 2020 and the smoke alarm was serviced on 29 March 2022.

	(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the service.
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Part VI - Safety**Regulation 28 - Insurance**

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

Compliance information	There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2023. The insurance provided cover for 33 children.
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