

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY137
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Lus na Greine
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Address of Service:	Gaelscoil Thiobraid Árann, Cnoc an Ráileigh, Tiobraid Arann, Co Tipperary
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Eircode:	E34 F544
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mairead Uí Mhurchu
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	10/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
Inspection undertaken by:	Antoinette McNamara
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).

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Description of service

Naíonra Lus na Greine is a part-time service located on the premises of the Gaelscoil Thiobraid Árann National School. The service has use of two classrooms with sanitary accommodation within the school. One classroom is used as a sensory room. The service also has access to a library, kitchen and sports hall within the school, and the use of the outdoor play spaces on the grounds of the national school. The service offers sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) schemes from 09:00 to 12:00 and part-time care from 12:00 to 14:00. The service is open Monday to Friday for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age.

Staffing

There are five staff employed directly in the service. The registered provider is the designated person in charge. Staff held qualifications in Early Childhood Education at level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and recruitment,
Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,

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Regulation 15 (1) (a-i) (3)(c) Records in relation to a pre-school child,
Regulation 20 (1)(a)(b)(3)(a) Facilities for rest and play,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,
Regulation 25 (1)(2)(a)(b) First aid

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of deputy person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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,*

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(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 deputy who was able to deputise, as required.
- (b) A person in charge was present on the day of inspection. From a review of the rosters a person in charge was present daily.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the deputy person in charge it was determined that two new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. In addition, Garda vetting for three staff members whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.
- (2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each person working at the service.
- (b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from sources such as previous schools and colleges.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for five staff members. In the case of one staff member, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.
- (d) Not applicable. Review of the curriculum vitae indicated that police vetting was not required.
- (4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working with pre-school children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were adequate staffing levels to respond to the children's needs on the day of inspection.

(2) The adult child ratios on the day of inspection were above the minimum regulatory requirements. There were 4 staff members working with 19 children.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

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(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

A sample of 10 completed registration forms were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

- (1) The registration forms contained the required information as detailed under parts (a) to (i) of this regulation.
- (3)(c) The registration forms were available on the premises for inspection by an authorised person.

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.
- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-*
 - (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was a large classroom with additional access to a large sensory room for the children to use. Sanitary accommodation was accessible directly off each activity room. The rooms were well resourced with toys, materials and furniture suitable to the age and stage of development of the children who used the room. Interest areas available in the main room included home corner, library, and low-level shelving which provided children with access to a wide selection of activities. There was an arts and crafts table and a building block table also available to the children. The environment was inclusive and representative of the children attending the service, with images of the children and their families and individual coat hooks. The sensory room had a selection of materials such as a sand tray, messy play tray, soft play area, sticking blocks and a large blackboard. The children also had access to a school library and a large hall.

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(b) Both the main classroom and sensory room had a cosy corner available to the children if they choose to rest during their time in the service.

(3)(a) A secure outdoor courtyard was available to the children. There was a range of materials available such as a mud kitchen, ball pit, sensory walls and outdoor seating in the courtyard. The pre-school also had use of a large outdoor area shared with the primary school.

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 main door to the pre-school classroom was locked and needed to be opened from the inside. The door was coded to allow staff enter from the outside. Children could not exit the service unsupervised and unsupervised visitors could not enter. The outdoor areas were secure to prevent children leaving the service. Cleaning agents and hazardous materials were stored inaccessible to children. Pinch guards covered the hinges on all doors to prevent injury to children.

Infection control:

The staff and children were observed to follow good hand hygiene practices such as washing hands after blowing noses. There was a sink in each of the activity rooms as well as in the sanitary accommodation areas to facilitate hand washing. There were designated children's toilets available off each activity room. Designated staff toilets were also provided. Hand washing facilities were adequately stocked with paper hand towels and liquid soap. There was warm running water present in the service. Perishable foods were stored in a fridge. Pedal bins were in operation to avoid cross contamination.

Fire safety:

Fire exits were found to be unobstructed on the day of inspection.

There were fire evacuation procedures displayed in a prominent area within the service.

Firefighting equipment was present in the service.

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Non-Compliance Information

General safety:

Garda vetting disclosures for one staff member were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General safety:

Garda vetting has been applied for one staff member. Reminders for renewal of Garda vetting have been set for going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

General safety:

A copy of the applied Garda vetting was sent to the Early Years Inspector.

Summary Comment

Evidence of an application for one staff member for Garda vetting was reviewed however; a copy of the complete Garda vetting has not been submitted for this staff member to the inspector to date. The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate upon receipt. The noncompliance in relation to Regulation 23 remains outstanding.

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 staff trained in First Aid Response (FAR) available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the service.