

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW221
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Name of Service:	An Naionra Gaelscoil Uí Chéagaigh
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Address of Service:	C/o Gaelscoil Uí Chéagaigh, Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A98 YH48
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Name of Registered Provider:	Hannah Farrell
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	12/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	23	PM	14
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Road Bray Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Bourke
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

This fully Irish speaking sessional and part time service was first established in 2012 and came under a change of registered provider in 2023. The service is registered to provide care and education for children aged between two and six years of age. The registered provider operates a part-time service in conjunction with a sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) service for 38 weeks of the year Monday to Friday.

Operational hours are from 08.40am to 01.40pm. The service operates out of two pre-school rooms located in a Gaelscoil, which is situated the town of Bray Co. Wicklow. The children have access to the National school's main hall, and have a small outdoor area, for their own use, located at the back of the school.

Staffing

The registered provider works full time in the service and employs two additional adults. Three adults were present on the day of inspection

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

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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 the registered provider, 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*
- (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

There are three adults working in the Naionra and this includes the registered provider.

These three staff files were reviewed.

(1)(a)

The registered provider was in charge of the service and there was a named staff member who was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The registered provider was on the premises at the time of arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

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(c)

There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

There were three validated references available on the day of inspection

(c)

The required three years Garda vetting disclosures were available in relation to three adults.

(d)

International police vetting was not required as no one person had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4)

Three adults held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

Of the six required validated references only three validated references were available on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

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Supporting documentation submitted

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Summary Comment

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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)

Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the Naionra.

(2)

The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were three adults present to work directly with 23 children in the morning and 14 children in the afternoon on the day of inspection.

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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;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

There was documentation of name, position, qualification and experience for all adults working in the Naionra.

(h)

There was a record of the daily attendance of each child attending the Naionra available in each care room.

(i)

There was a staff roster available of the daily attendance of each adult working in the service.

(k)

Ten accident and incidents were reviewed, and all were completed correctly.

(3)

The registered provider ensured that these records were available for inspection to an authorised person.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(j)

Two of the medication administration forms reviewed were not completed correctly.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

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Supporting documentation submitted

Click or tap here to enter text.

Summary Comment

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The outdoor area of the Naionra contained a large variety of equipment for the children to use. Examples of some of the equipment were a play hut, rocking horse, outdoor kitchen area, play shop, teepee and a musical board fixed to an outside wall. There was a seating area for both adults and children to use.

The indoor area was also suitably equipped with age-appropriate table and chairs with a variety of toys, books, art equipment and areas of interest. All equipment was clean, age appropriate and in good working order.

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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 main door to the service was securely locked on arrival of the inspector to the service.
- All toys examined were in good condition and equipment was suitable, age appropriate and in good working order.
- All cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The emergency exit routes from the Naionra rooms were free from obstruction and clearly marked.

Infection Control:

- The sanitary area was adjacent to the Seomra Mor and there was a sanitary area in Seomra Beag, both had warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels available.
- Foot pedal bins were available in both the sanitary areas and in both care rooms for the safe disposal of used paper towels and other items that required disposing of.
- Hand washing by adults and children was observed before snack time and after using the toilet.
- Cleaning schedules were present and maintained in the Naionra.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider ensured that all children attending the Naionra were checked in and out on the service register.

(3)(a)(i-iv)

The registered provider ensured that no other person other than the agreed list of people has access to the Naionra.

(b)

The registered provider had a record in writing in the form of a visitors' book of all such persons who accessed the Naionra.

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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)
The registered provider was trained in FAR (first aid response) and was available to the children throughout the inspection.
- (2)(a)
A suitably equipped first aid box was located in an accessible place within the hallway of the service and each care room.
- (b)
The first aid box was available to the children attending the service at all times.

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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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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)

There was a record of fire drills having taken place in the Naionra on a monthly basis. The last fire drill took place on the 25 March 2026.

(b)

There was a maintenance record for firefighting equipment and the smoke detection system on the premises dated March 2026 and November 2025 respectively.

(2)(c)

The above records referred to in paragraph (1) were open to inspection by an authorised person.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to follow in the event of a fire, clearly displayed within each Naionra room.

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

The registered provider was able to demonstrate that the children attending the Naionra were adequately supervised continuously throughout their day.