

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2016KE016 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Weston Primary Montessori |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|

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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | Barnhall Rugby Club, Parsonstown, Leixlip, Co. Kildare |
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|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | W23 E8HW |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Sinead Langton |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Sessional |
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| <b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b> | 08/06/2026 |
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|                                   |    |    |    |     |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 26 | PM | n/a |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|

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|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co Kildare, W91 X38W. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | E. Mulhern                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | 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

Weston Primary Montessori provides an early years service within a private primary Montessori school. Children aged 2-6 years are accommodated on a sessional basis five mornings per week. Two rooms in the school are allocated to the pre-school children. Both rooms have their own sanitary facilities and there is a secured outdoor area accessible from each room.

### Staffing

There are four staff employed to work in the pre-school service. The registered provider works with the primary school children and is the named person to deputise if the person in charge of the pre-school service is absent.

### 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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection 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

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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 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,*
- (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*

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*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) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.
- (b) The person in charge was on the premises throughout the inspection. The staff roster provided for the person in charge to be present at all times of opening.
- (2)(a) & (b) The inspection focused on the recruitment records of one adult who had been employed since these regulations were last inspected. There were two past employer references available for the adult with a record of verification.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults. Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Not applicable as the adult employed since the previous inspection did not live outside the state for more than six months as an adult.
- (4) It was evidenced that the adult employed since the previous inspection held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education that was higher than the minimum requirement.

### 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

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### Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children. There were four adults working directly with 26 children.

(3) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement for the age of children and type of service provided was always maintained.

### 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

The children's learning, development, and well-being was supported by the adults and the environment. The children appeared content and engaged in free-play and Montessori work of their choice. There were defined interest areas within each room including an arts and crafts area, home corner, construction area and Montessori workstations. Children were observed engaging in activities related to a 'farm' theme and activities including singing. Books were available to support language development. The outdoor area included apple trees and flowers and had equipment for imaginative and active play. Each room had an area where children could rest or take a break from activities.

The adults engaged kindly with the children and supported them in their play and work. They maintained a calm and relaxed atmosphere and managed transitions between activities effectively. The children brought food and drinks from home and sat together in groups with the adults at lunch time engaging in conversation. The children used the toilet as needed with the adults supporting their independence. The staff reported that they communicate with parents at drop off and collection and provide one-to-one meetings when required. They stated that a monthly newsletter is provided to parents to keep them informed of activities within the service.

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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:

Entrances and exits were secured to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised. Equipment was well maintained and suitable to the ages and stages of the children. Hazardous items including cleaning products and cables were secured out of children's reach. Emergency exits were kept clear. Staff were able to state the measures they should take to evacuate the building safely in the event of a fire. A record was kept of the children's attendance which they reported is brought for a roll call in fire drills.

##### Infection Control:

The premises and equipment appeared clean and cleaning schedules were in place. Sanitary facilities were equipped to support handwashing. The children washed their hands at appropriate times including after using the toilet, and before eating. Pedal operated bins were in place to manage waste appropriately. Staff were observed cleaning the tables prior to lunch.

##### Administration of Medication:

None of the children in attendance required medication. Staff demonstrated an awareness of how to give medicine safely if required including obtaining written parent consent, having a second adult witness the administration and making a record afterwards.

### 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.*

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### Compliance Information

- (1) An adult trained in first aid was present during the inspection. This adult was rostered to be present at all times of opening.
- (2)
- (a) The service had suitably equipped first aid boxes which were stored in a conspicuous position in each room.
- (b) The first aid boxes were always available to the children.

### 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 fire fighting 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 detailing fire drills that had been carried out in the service.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarm. The most recent dates of maintenance were 3 September 2025 and 20 February 2026 respectively.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position.

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### 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 adults were observed supervising the children appropriately at all times. There were two adults in each room working closely with the children throughout the inspection.