

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019DS001
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Name of Service:	Naíonra na Giúise
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Address of Service:	Gaelscoil na Giúise, Ballycullen Drive, Firhouse, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mark Gibbons
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	21/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Early O'Brien
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 na Giuise is a privately owned sessional service located within Gaelscoil Na Giuise in Firhouse, Dublin 24. The service is one of two operated by the registered provider and provides a play based sessional educational preschool service for children aged 2 to 6 years through the medium of the Irish language. There is one large preschool room available to the children with an outdoor area to the front of the premises.

Staffing

There are three adults employed to work directly with the pre-school children. On the day of inspection, there were two adults present. The registered provider does not work in the service, however the area manager arrived after the inspector's arrival.

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 and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9(2)(3)(4)(7) – Management and recruitment,
Regulation 10 – Policies Procedures etc. of Pre-School Service,
Regulation 11 (1)(3) – Staffing levels,

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Regulation 19 (1)(b)(3) – Health, welfare and development of child,
Regulation 32 – Complaints.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9(7) – Management and Recruitment.

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 person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN0901	21/06/2026	On the day of inspection, emergency medication required for one child was found to be stored in the child's schoolbag. A care plan available was not sufficiently detailed to ensure the health and safety of the child.

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Status	Action was taken immediately by the person in charge following service of the Notice and the person in charge submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventive actions which were accepted by the Inspectorate.
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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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,

© 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

(a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

(b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and

© these Regulations.

Compliance Information

(2)

Upon review of the staff roster and staff files, it was identified that there were two new staff members employed to work in the service since the last inspection on 26 November 2024. All staff files were reviewed in relation to regulation 9(2)©.

(a)(b)

Documentation was reviewed in respect of two adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

Of the four validated, written references that were required, all six of these were available from a past employer.

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© Garda vetting disclosures were on file and had been obtained for four staff members, demonstrating that the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as there was no evidence to suggest that any staff member had lived outside of the State for a period of more than six months as an adult.

(3)
The records outlined in regulation 9(2) above were dated prior to the commencement date of employment of the adults in the service.

(4)
There was documentary evidence available to demonstrate that the two staff members 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 equivalent.

(7)(a)(b)(c)
The inspection focused on a sample of induction and training records of three staff members including two new employees since the last inspection on 26 November 2024.

The registered provider demonstrated that measures had been taken to ensure that employees were provided with sufficient information and training to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending the service and to comply with the regulations as follows.

- Documentation reviewed evidenced that induction records were available for two adults who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection.
- Documentation reviewed evidenced that quarterly support and supervision records were available for all staff members working in the service since the last inspection. This is in line with the services training policy.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The inspection focused on the following policies:

- Complaints Policy
- Policy on Managing Behaviour,
- Policy on Accidents and Incidents,
- Risk Management Policy,
- Staff Training Policy,
- Supervision of Staff Policy.
- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Child Safeguarding Policy

The service had these policies available, and the content met the regulatory requirements

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.

Compliance Information

(1)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(3)

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The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. On the day of inspection there were 17 children attending the service being supervised by 2 adults on the morning of inspection.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly on the day of inspection. Staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent including cleaning up after their play and meals. The adults supported the children to manage their personal care. Staff reminded and assisted children with hand washing and cleaned their noses as needed. The children used the toilet independently. Children observed in play in the outdoor area wore coats appropriate to the weather.

Healthy eating was promoted in the service and staff reported that snacks are provided by the parents/guardians for children attending on a sessional basis. These comprised of sandwiches, crackers, cheese, fruit and yogurt.

Children were encouraged to feed themselves and staff supported children who needed assistance. Children appeared happy and content within the care rooms. Drinking water was available for children in the care room.

Children were supported in transitions between activities within the care room. Children were familiar with these transitions and engaged in these smoothly from outdoor to indoor and between play and snacktime.

Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly, offering comfort and support when needed. Staff interacted warmly with the children throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children in their play. Staff encouraged and praised the children when

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promoting positive behaviour. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's choice and independence during play and mealtimes.

(3)

Prohibited practices were outlined in the service's behaviour management policy. During discussions with the inspector, staff demonstrated a knowledge of the policy and the prohibited practices. They were aware of the service's designated liaison person as detailed in the child safeguarding statement. The staff spoke kindly to the children and were gentle in their handling. No prohibited practices were observed.

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 entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.
- Cleaning agents and medicines were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate handwashing for staff and children in the sanitary area adjacent to the care room.
- Foot pedal bins were available throughout the service for the safe disposal of used hand towels and other waste products.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned before and after snack time.
- Perishable food items were stored in the refrigerator as required.

Administration of Medication:

- The service had an administration of medication policy in place. Medication has not been given to date in the service. An adequate medication record was available to document medication given should this be

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required in an emergency. All staff were familiar with the procedures outlined in the medication policy. Anti-febrile medication was available, in date and stored out of the reach of children.

Fire Safety:

- On the day of inspection, all emergency exits were observed to be clearly identifiable and were not obstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN0901 served.

Infection Control:

- On their return indoors from playing in the outdoor play space, children were not supervised in handwashing, and the adults were not observed to wash their hands. The children were observed to access resources from the shelves to play with them. This poses a risk to staff and children in cross contamination and cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- To current the actions here, the service immediately contacted the parent in relation to the child's medication. This medication is now onsite and will remain onsite in a labelled box out of reach of the children but easily accessible to staff. The service has created a new emergency action plan should the child present with any symptoms based on the information provided by the parent. This plan has been signed by the parent and manager, and all staff have reviewed the amended action plan.
To prevent this in the future, should the service be informed of children requiring emergency medication on enrolment, parents will be contacted prior to their child starting. A detailed letter will be sent home to parents/guardians of any child who has listed illnesses on their enrolment forms prior to starting, this will include what we need in the way of a doctors letter, steps on administration of needed medication, spare medication for service to be kept there and procedure in the event of an emergency.

Infection Control:

- Following the inspection, the manager issued a reminder to staff in relation to the importance of washing hands after being in the yard /outside play. Staff had just forgotten the step as the inspection had just started and they were trying to get the children settled.

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Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

A copy of an amended and signed care plan for a child requiring emergency medication.

Infection Control:

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance and will inform the next inspection.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- A complaints policy was available in the service which specified the following:
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service.
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with.
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.
- (2)
- (a) There was no documentary evidence available to suggest that the service had received complaints.