

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR184
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Name of Service:	The Teresian School (Segovia Trust)
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Address of Service:	12 Stillorgan Rd, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D04 E9X5
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Name of Registered Provider:	Hilda Geraghty
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	06/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM	28
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate - Tusla Child and Family Agency Brunel Building, Floor 7 Heuston South Quarter Dublin 8, D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	M Bermingham
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

The Teresian School (Segovia Trust) is registered to provide full daycare for up to 52 children aged 2 – 6 years and operating hours are 08:00 – 18:00. The service is part of The Teresian Junior School. There are three rooms named Preschool 1 (age 2-3 years), Preschool 2 (age 3-5 years) and Preschool 3 (age 4-5 years). Additional facilities include a communal indoor space, a small outdoor courtyard, a dedicated sleep room, a large outdoor area to the front of the building, and a space in a hall in the school building.

Staffing

There are 13 adults employed or placed with the service including the school principal, school secretary and a volunteer on language and cultural placement. On the day of inspection there were five adults working directly with children, and a cook and volunteer were present. The registered provider was not present on the day of inspection and does not work in the service.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 19- Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and welfare of child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included rooms Preschool 1 and Preschool 2.

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 IN0192	06/07/2026	An adult who had access to children was not sufficiently vetted. The following documents were not available to show that sufficient vetting considerations were carried out prior to the adult having access to children; Irish Garda vetting, International police vetting translated to English, and two written and verified references. These documents above must be submitted to the inspectorate prior to the adult having access to children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Status	Immediate action was taken by the service after issuance of the notice. A written response was submitted which stated corrective and preventive actions that were deemed adequate and accepted by the Inspectorate.	
Improvement Notice IN0193	06/07/2026	A person trained in first aid, specifically First Aid Response (FAR), was not immediately available, at all times, to the children attending the service.
Status	Immediate action was taken by the service after issuance of the notice. A written response was submitted by the service detailing corrective and preventive actions taken by the service that were deemed adequate and accepted by the Inspectorate.	

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*

(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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

(1)

- (a) The service had a named person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge and or the deputy were rostered to be present on the premises for the duration of the opening hours.
- (c) A clear management structure was in place evidenced by observing the operation of the service and through discussion with staff.

(2)

There were 13 adults employed by or placed in the service, of whom 4 commenced since the last inspection dated 30 September 2024. Recruitment vetting documentation was reviewed for these newly commenced adults and Garda vetting renewals were reviewed for existing staff, with the following vetting considerations found:

- (a) Three written and verified references from past employers were available.
- (b) One written and verified references from sources other than past employers were available.
- (c) Three new Garda vetting disclosures were available and Garda vetting renewals were available in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate's regulatory notice requiring 3-year renewal for all adults employed.
- (d) International police vetting certificates for one adult who lived outside of the state for a period of more than six months as an adult was available.

(4)

Qualification records were reviewed for three adults employed to work directly with children and two adults were found to hold the required qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a)(b)

1. See Statutory Improvement Notice IN0192 in relation to two references for one adult.
2. Two written and verified references for one other adult were not available.

(c)

1. See Statutory Improvement Notice IN0192 in relation to Garda vetting for one adult.

(d)

1. See Statutory Improvement Notice IN0192 in relation to the translation of one international police vetting document for one adult.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

2. Certified translations were not available for one International Police vetting certificate that were written in a language other than English, for one adult who lived outside the state for a period of more than six months as adults.

(3)

The procedures specified in regulation 9(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) were not completed prior to three adults commencing in the service as required, as evidenced through a review of documentation. Allowing adults work with children before their suitability is established may result in individuals who are not appropriate have access to children.

(4)

One adult employed to work directly with children did not hold the required qualification, which is at least a major award in early childhood care and education at level 5 on the national framework of qualifications, or a qualification deemed by the minister to be equivalent.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)(d) and (4)

The registered provider stated that the adults in question completed their contracts and will not be returning to employment with the service. A suitably qualified adult was employed, and the service has access to a suitably qualified group of substitute adults in case of unexpected staff absences. Updated Garda vetting training, which incorporates updates on vetting requirements, was completed.

(3)

The registered provider stated that written references will be verified before adults commence as per the updated training.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation was submitted by the registered provider and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and actions submitted by the registered provider adequately addresses the non-compliances identified on inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

Compliance Information

- (1)*
- An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (2)*
- The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection; there were 5 adults working with 28 children in the morning and afternoon on the day 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-*
- (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*
- (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.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The following observations demonstrated how children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of this service and how appropriate and suitable care practices were in place;

Regular snacks and meals were provided to children to include all major food groups as part of the service's healthy eating policy. Children ate a banana for snack at 10:30 and lunch was served at 12:30 consisting of pasta, meatballs and tomato sauce, followed by raisins. Alternatives were available to cater for preferences, and additional helpings were provided at children's requests. Lunch was purchased from an external provider and reheated by the service. Mealtimes were relaxed and enjoyable with children chatting socially with peers. Staff reported that children have the option of bringing in breakfast and that afternoon tea is also served. Children drank from water beakers at mealtimes, and these were also available on a low shelf throughout the day. Children's personal care needs were attended to as follows; faces and hands were cleaned after dinner, children's nappies were changed as needed, and children were supported to use the toilet when required. Children spent time outside in the morning and afternoon, occupying both sunny and shady spots and were dressed appropriately for warm weather.

Adults interacted with children and colleagues in a warm and engaging manner which helps supports relationships around children. Adults used encouragement and praise to guide children through care routines and to extend learning during activities. Adults managed the daily routine to provide learning opportunities and smooth transitions for children. Children were assigned jobs as helpers, and this promotes independence. Children were engaged in play and activities and appeared to enjoy being in their social groups.

The environment supported children's learning and development and was spacious and bright with low open shelving, and tables and chairs that were appropriately sized. Couches were available for children to take a rest with books. The environment was laid out in distinct learning interest areas to include a home/imaginary area equipped with home like play props. The environment was organised and well labelled with print and pictures creating a sense of order for children. There were ample resources and materials available for children who were engaged with, for example, Montessori materials, small world play props, train sets, colouring, hairdressing props, jigsaw puzzles, wooden blocks, and matching cards. When outside children played hoola hoops, counting games, running, and riding on trikes. The environment reflected children through displays of their artwork, family photographs, birthdays, and their names and pictures on coat hooks.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre 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

The following measures were taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children, and provide a safe environment. This was evidenced by observation of practice, a review of the environment and documentation, and discussion with staff;

General Safety:

- The entrance into the service was appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or children exiting the service unsupervised.
- The outdoor area was enclosed and secure.
- Low level glass panels on doors had appropriate visibility marks to prevent a child colliding with the glass.
- Toys and play equipment were in good condition.

Infection Control:

- The premises, environment, equipment and materials appeared clean and were maintained in a hygienic condition.
- Appropriate hand washing was facilitated through the provision of warm running water, liquid soap and dispensed paper towels.
- Children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after nappy changing and toileting, after outdoor play, and before meals, in line with the services infection control policy.
- Nappy changing practices were carried out in line with the services procedures displayed.
- Children's nappy creams were individually labelled.
- Waste was inaccessible to children and managed appropriately through the use of lidded bins.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated that they were familiar with the procedure and practices in place for administering and recording medication in line with the services policy on medication.
- Prior parental consent was recorded to administer medication if required with procedures in place to safely administer.
- Medication was clearly labelled, within its expiry date, and stored in its original container.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Fire Safety:

- Emergency escape routes and exits were unobstructed and clearly signposted.
- Staff members outlined the procedures to evacuate children in the event of a fire and knew the location of the assembly point, in line with the services procedures that were displayed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Products containing hazardous substances were accessible to children and stored in areas that children were observed to access independently, posing a potential risk of poisoning as follows:
 - A container of air-freshener spray was stored on a low shelf in each of the sanitary areas outside Preschool 1 and Preschool 3.
 - Three spray bottles of cleaning products were stored a shelf that was in reach of children in Preschool 1.
 - One spray bottle of cleaning product was stored on a low table in the hallway outside preschool 3.

It is acknowledged that when brought to the attention of the person in charge, the identified products were immediately placed on high shelves out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

2. In the sanitary area outside Preschool 2, the base of a toilet brush holder was visibly soiled, posing an infection risk to children who were observed using the sanitary area independently.

Administration of Medication:

3. In Preschool 2, medication was stored in a child's bag on the child's coat hook, which was within children's reach, posing a potential risk of harm to children. It is acknowledged that, when this was brought to the attention of the person in charge, they immediately placed the medication on a high shelf out of children's reach. Medication in children's reach was identified as a non-compliance on the last inspection dated 30 September 2024 and the corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that;

1. All cleaning products were immediately moved out of reach of children. Staff training on cleaning products placement was provided, and policy and staff acknowledgement and compliance sign off sheet were reviewed in detail with all staff.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

2. The brush holder was immediately removed, and brush holders are no longer in place in the preschool.
The cleaning company will use toilet brushes if necessary and store hygienically in the cleaning storeroom.
3. Medicine was moved to a suitable out of reach shelf and staff training on the importance of medical plans and placement of medicine was revised. Staff acknowledgement and compliance sign off sheet were explained in detail to all staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted by the registered provider and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliances identified on inspection.

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

(2) First aid boxes were available and suitably equipped.

(a) The first aid boxes were stored safely in conspicuous positions on shelves in the rooms.

(b) The first aid boxes were available to children at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

See Statutory Notice Section for Improvement Notice IN0193.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Insurance documentation was reviewed and the service was found to be adequately insured for 45 children with an expiry date of 22 November 2026.