

QIPP Submission 2025 / 2026

QIPP Submission Status: Submitted | QIPP Report Submission Status: Report Not Submitted

25MN0118 Ballybay Kindergarten CLG (Early Learning and Care Service (ELC))

3. Creating and Using the Learning Environment

3-1. We will undertake the following Quality and Inclusion Actions:

We will continue to develop our indoor and outdoor environments to support calm, creative and inclusive play, rooted in the Waldorf understanding that the environment has a formative influence on the child's senses and development.

The indoor space will be reviewed to ensure warmth, beauty and simplicity, with natural materials, open-ended resources and areas that invite focused & imaginative play. We will assess accessibility, safety and sensory balance, creating clearly defined yet flexible spaces for rest, play and creative work.

Outdoors, we will enhance the play garden with additional open-ended natural materials such as logs, stones, baskets, as well as seasonal planting and small natural shelters to deepen children's connection with nature and the rhythm of the seasons.

To support this, colleagues will visit other Waldorf and nature-based kindergartens for inspiration and practical learning. Ongoing professional development will include mentoring and CPD through Bláthú, along with subscriptions to Kindling, IASWECE newsletters, and the purchase of selected books to build a small pedagogical library.

Daily garden risk assessments will be updated, and a new classroom daily risk assessment will be introduced to ensure consistent monitoring of safety and wellbeing. Changes will be implemented gradually through 2025/26, supported by termly team reflections.

3-2. The Quality and Inclusion Actions we have chosen to focus on have been identified in a recent inspection report?

No

3-3. The Quality and Inclusion Actions we have identified will require the review and development of certain policies, procedures and statements?

Yes

3-3-1. We will review and develop the following policies, procedures and statements:

The Health, Safety and Environment Policy will be updated to include principles of aesthetic care, sustainability and inclusivity, as well as the introduction of both classroom and garden daily risk assessments. The Curriculum Statement will also be reviewed to acknowledge the learning environment as a core pedagogical tool within the Waldorf approach, emphasising rhythm, beauty and natural materials.

3-4. We have identified possible challenges or risks to achieving our identified Quality and Inclusion Actions?

Yes

3-4-1. Please list possible challenges or risks.

Limited funding may slow improvements, and staff time for visits or CPD may be constrained. We will address this by prioritising low-cost, sustainable materials, inviting parent and community support, and scheduling professional development during times to suit colleagues. External mentoring will be used to guide reflective practice without overburdening the team.

3-5. We have identified who within our service will be responsible for ensuring our identified Quality and Inclusion Actions are progressed and achieved?

Yes

3-6. In achieving our identified Quality and Inclusion Actions we will avail of the National Síolta Aistear Initiative (NSAI) supports and resources?

No

3-8. In progressing our identified Quality and Inclusion Actions we will:

Work independently