**Child Safeguarding Statement**

Ballybrack Killiney Montessori & Afterschool is a registered Pre-school & Afterschool Service providing the following services

* Sessional preschool Montessori Service for children aged 2½ to 5½ years classes:

Three morning classes from 9.30am – 12.30pm and one afternoon class from 1.30 – 4.30pm.

* Lunch club for morning preschool children aged 2½ to 5½ years until 3pm.
* Full-time care for preschool children aged 2½ to 5½ years until 6pm.
* After-school service for children attending selected local primary schools for up to 40 children. The Adult : Child ratio is 1:12. This service is available to children from Junior infants to 6th Class (ages 4 to 12 years) from 1pm to 6pm daily.

We are located at Parish Hall, St. Matthias’ Church, Church Road, Killiney, Co. Dublin

**The management structure is:**

Eve Berea - Manager

Lauren Howard - Deputy Manager

Jill O’Connor - Deputy Manager

We have the capacity for 77 children in our morning sessional classes. We currently have nine teachers and work with a minimum adult to child ratio of 1 : 8 in Preschool and 1 : 12 in Afterschool.

**COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM**

1. Our Service is committed to safeguarding the children in our care and to providing a safe environment in which they can play, learn and develop.
2. Our service believes that the welfare of the children attending our service is paramount. We are committed to child-centred practice in all our work with children.
3. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, and heard.
4. Our policies and procedures to safeguard children and young people are based on the national policy and legislation and are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Tusla Children First – Child Safeguarding Guide 2017, and the Children First Act 2015.
5. All staff have completed the Tusla eLearning module – *Introduction to Children First* and relevant staff have attended Always Children First Child Protection Training.
6. Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers and students on work placement within our organisation. All staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.
7. We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.
8. **Designated Liaison Person** for Child Protection: Eve Berea

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, we have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the service or participating in service activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below and is available to all staff and parents/carers on enrolment.

**CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

As required by the Children First Act, 2015, Children First National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and the Guidance for Developing for a Child Safeguarding statement for Early Years Services 2018 the following safeguarding policies are in place to safeguard the children from harm throughout their time with us:

* Procedures to maintain a list of mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015.
* Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures.
* Policy for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse or Neglect Against Employees.
* Procedure for Managing Child Protection Records.
* Garda Vetting/clearance Policy.
* Code of Behaviour for Working with Children.
* Recruitment & Induction Policy (which includes procedures to inform new staff about the Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying safeguarding policies and procedures).
* Staff development, regular Supervision and Support in line with the service policy.
* Use of Internet, Email, Social Media Policy
* Inclusion Policy
* Transport policy
* Risk Management Policy
* Toileting/nappy changing Policy
* Behaviour Management Policy
* Policy on Outings and Excursions
* Complaints Policy
* Accident and Incident policy

**Risk Assessment:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Risk Identified:** | **Procedure or Policy in place:** |
| Risk of harm of sexual abuse (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer | * Recruitment & Induction Policy * Child safeguarding policy * Garda vetting of each member of staff/volunteer * Toileting/Nappy changing Policy |
| Risk of harm of physical/psychological/ emotional harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff, volunteer, visitor or stranger. | * Recruitment & Induction Policy * Child safeguarding policy * Security policy and Outings Policy * Garda vetting of each member of staff/volunteer * Employee references * Recognised qualifications and training |
| Risk of Bullying of a child | * Antibullying Policy * Child-friendly complaints Policy |
| Risk of harm of a child through the use of unauthorised Photography | * Photography Policy |
| Risk of harm of online abuse through social media or internet use | * Internet & Social Media Management Policy * Antibullying (including cyberbullying) Policy |
| Risk of infection of contagious disease | * Infection Control Policy |
| Risk of injury or medical emergency | * Health & Safety Policies * First Aid Training for all staff * Policy for managing accidents & incidents |
| Risk of injury from fire | * Fire Safety Policy * Monthly Fire Drills * Annual Fire equipment maintenance * Fire Safety training |
| Risk of Lost or missing child | * Policy for managing outings * Lost or missing child Policy * Afterschool drop off & Collection Policy |
| Risk of harm due to Data breach | * Data Protection Policies |
| Risk of harm to a child due to failure to recognise or report abuse / suspicions of abuse to Tusla | * Confidentiality & Record Keeping Policy * Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures. * Policy for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse or Neglect Against Employees * Tusla elearning ‘Children First’ for all staff members |

**IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

1. This Statement will be reviewed every 2 years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.
2. This statement has been published on the service website and is displayed in the service.   It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For further information on this Statement, contact Relevant Person: **Ms. Eve Berea**