School Age Childcare and Pre-School services

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**Grove Pre & After School**

The Old Convent, Our Lady’s Grove, Goatstown Road, Goatstown, Dublin 14

Tel: 2157710; Email: groveafterschool@eircom.net

**CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

**NOVEMBER 2020**

1. NAME OF SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED

The Grove After School (GAS) provides before and after school care service, and a Preschool under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

* The Preschool service is sessional from 09.00h– 12.00h each day in term and there are two classrooms which each cater for up to 22 children. As the Preschool is within the Grove After School (GAS) there are also facilities for before and after Preschool care provision.
* The Preschool is aimed at children aged from 3 years up to 5-and-a-half years under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme.
* Children of Primary School age may attend GAS from 08.00h-08.45h and from

13.30h – 18.00h during the school year.

The Management Structure is shown below.

2. COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

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.

Our Service believes that the welfare of the children attending our service is paramount.

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. We are committed to child-centred practice in all our work with children.

Our policy and procedures to safeguard children (and young people) reflect 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.

Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/board members, and students on work placement within our organisation. All Directors and committee members, and staff, 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.

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.

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| Manager and Mandated Liaison  Person/Designated Liaison Person for CHILD PROTECTION  Yvonne Tumelty | Deputy:  Noelle Murray |

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board of Management/Service Provider has 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 the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

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| Risks Identified/Risk of Harm to a Child | Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage risk |
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| Risk of Harm to a Child by Member of Staff/Volunteer: | As per our “Recruitment Policy “we ensure that our staff and volunteers are carefully selected, trained and supervised in accordance with our Recruitment Policy. |
| Risk of Harm to a Child by Visitors to the Service: | Persons holding extra curricular activities/ parents visiting/maintenance workers must be supervised at all times. |
| Risk of Harm to a Child on outings by:   * Member of Staff: * Volunteer:      * Stranger/Member of the public      * Peer: * Location and surroundings * Child contact with member of the public | Adult/Child Ratio is upheld for outings  Volunteers are not included in the child/adult ratio & are supervised by another staff member at all times.  To safeguard children they are supervised at all times ensuring that the adult/child ratio is upheld for outings.  Children are supervised at all times  Location is assessed prior to outing as per our Outings Policy  To safeguard children they are supervised ensuring that the adult : child ratio is upheld for outings. |
| Risk of Harm to a Child through Unauthorised Photography | A no mobile phone Policy is in force for children, staff, visitors & parents while on the premises. A digital camera is available for pre school staff to be used only for curriculum purposes & authorised by Manager. |
| Risk of Harm to a child through social media/internet use:   * Child * Staff: | The internet should not be accessed by a child unless under the supervision of a staff member for the purpose of educational research or learning opportunities.  No digital imagery/photos/videos of children or families is to be published on social media sites/networking sites under any circumstances.  Employees are not permitted to engage with the service’s parents and families on social networking sites. |
| Risk of Harm of Bullying of a Child by Staff/Volunteer/Peer | Included in our Behaviour Management Policy staff are continually monitoring children’s behaviour and our Behaviour Management policy is in place. Staff/Volunteers follow our Code of Behaviour. |
| Risk of Harm to a Child from escaping the premises: | Parents/Visitors are reminded to ensure the front door is always closed. Parents are reminded through verbal communication and signage throughout the school year. |
| Risk of Harm to the Child by an unauthorised person collecting from  After School: | Parents written consent required to give authorisation for another person to collect their child. |
| Garda Vetting | All staff have current Garda Vetting clearance reviewed every 3 years. Garda Vetting must be in place before new staff member commences employment as per our Recruitment Policy |
| Risk of Harm to a Child by Service not reporting suspicions or allegations of abuse to Tusla: | Our Child Protection Policy is in place to ensure that the procedures for reporting a case of child abuse or neglect are clear & followed by staff & they are aware of the legal obligation of reporting to Tusla. |

4. 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/procedures and measures are in place.

* Procedures to maintain a list of mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
* A Relevant Person/Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed
* Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures described in our Child Protection Policy
* Confidentiality Policy
* Policy for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse or Neglect Against Employees
* Procedure for Managing Child Protection Records
* Recruitment Policy
* Garda Vetting Policy
* Code of Behaviour for Working with Children
* Induction Policy (includes procedures to inform new staff about the Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying safeguarding policies and procedures)
* All Staff have completed the Tusla eLearning module – *Introduction to Children First* and relevant staff have attended Always Children First Child Protection Training
* Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support in line with the service policy.
* Complaints Policy
* Policy for Managing Outings
* Policy for Managing Accidents and Incidents
* Social Media Management Policy

5. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

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

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.

This statement 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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Yvonne Tumelty

Grove Afterschool

Tel: 2157710

For further information on this Statement contact Relevant Person: Yvonne Tumelty at above number.