



15. CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

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Document Author:	YMCA Childcare, CB
Document Approved:	Stuart Buchanan
Person(s) responsible for developing, distributing and reviewing Policy	Stuart Buchanan Russell Wilbourne
Person responsible for approving Policy	Stuart Buchanan
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1. Type of Service: The aim of this Service is to provide a Full Day Care facility for children aged 6 months to 5 years. We open 51 weeks per year and daily from 8am-5.30pm, Monday to Friday. We have the capacity to cater for 107 full-time children and 22 sessional children at any one time and our ratios are listed overleaf. This Service is a community-based facility operated by a Board of Directors. We deliver a Child-led Play based Curriculum.

Key Personnel: In-House

Manager (Person in charge):	Russell Wilbourne
Deputy in the absence of Manager:	Katie Waligorska
Health and Safety Officer:	Paul McDonald
Fire Officer:	Matt Sweeney
First Aid Co-ordinator:	Isabella Meier
Designated Liaison Officer:	Kathryn O'Mahony
Deputy Designated Liaison Officer:	Paul McDonald
Data Controller:	Elaine Barry

Key Information:

Opening Hours:	8am-5.30pm (full-time) 9am-1pm (part time)
No of Weeks per year opened:	51
Capacity:	107 (full-time children) 22 (sessional children)

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No. of Children attending the Service:	107 (full-time children) 22 (sessional children)
Age Range:	6 months – 5 years
Ratios:	0 – 1 Year 1:3 1 – 2 Years 1:5 2 – 3 Years 1:6 3 – 6 Years 1:8
Curriculum:	Child-led Play based Curriculum
Address:	53 Aungier Street, Dublin 2
Phone Number:	01 4782607
Email:	childcare.info@ymca-ireland.net

Key Personnel: External

TUSLA Early Years Inspection Team:	Dublin South West & West, Early Years Inspector, Cherry Orchard Hospital, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, 076 6955723
TUSLA Social Work Department:	Duty Social Work Department, Carnegie Centre, 21-25 Lord Edward Street, Dublin 2, 01 6486500
Garda:	Kevin Street Garda Station, 01 6669400
Hospital:	Temple Street, 01 8784200
Fire Brigade:	999 / 112
Garda Vetting:	Shauna Barnes (YMCA)

2. Principles: Protecting children and young people is everyone’s responsibility. The welfare of the child is paramount to us. Therefore, we want to make sure that the children in the Service are protected and kept safe from harm while they are with the staff and the students in this Service by:

- Making sure that our staff and students are carefully selected, trained and supervised.
- Having procedures to recognise, respond to and report concerns about children’s protection and welfare.
- Making sure all staff are Garda vetted prior to engagement.
- Having clear codes of behaviour for management, staff and students.
- Having a procedure to respond to accidents and incidents.
- Giving parents/guardians, children and workers information about what we do and what to expect from us.

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- Letting parents/guardians and children know how to voice their concerns or complain if there is anything they are not happy about. Having a procedure to respond to these complaints.
- We have a clear reporting procedure to be followed should a staff member have a concern about a child with regard to *Children First (2017) and The Children First Act 2015*
- Having a procedure to respond to allegations of abuse and neglect against staff members.
- The Child and Adult Protection policy will be reviewed annually by the Management.

3. Risk Assessment

All potential risks have a relevant procedure to manage the risks as outlined below

RISK IDENTIFIED	PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO MANAGE RISK	Responsibility
Risk of harm of bullying a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer	Procedures in place Anti-bullying policy Staff Training Supervision Discipline Procedure School-Aged children have access to complaints policy in child-friendly format	Management, staff
Risk of harm of sexual abuse (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/ Child Abused within setting	Procedures in place Vetting in place to include Garda vetting, police checks, validated references. No unsupervised access by unauthorised personnel. Staff aware of mandated requirement to report abuse. Staff trained in child protection DLPs appointed Mandated persons named and listed Visitors or persons unknown to staff will not have unsupervised access and visiting times will, if possible, be arranged when children are not present as they are unvetted School-Aged children have access to complaints policy in child-friendly format	Management, Staff, DLP
Risk of harm or physical / psychological/ emotional harm (as defined by the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff	Procedures in place Vetting in place to include Garda vetting, police checks, validated references. No unsupervised access by unauthorised personnel. Staff aware of mandated requirement to report abuse. Staff trained in child protection DLPs appointed Mandated persons named and listed Visitors or persons unknown to staff will not have unsupervised access and visiting times will, if possible, be arranged when children are not present as they are unvetted	Management, Staff, DLP

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	School-Aged children have access to complaints policy in child-friendly format	
Lost child	Procedures in place Missing Child Policy in place and followed Outing Policy in place and followed Risk Assessments carried out Critical Incident Plan in place. Only authorised Persons allowed access to the service	Management, Staff
Accidents Caused by Neglect	Procedures in place Safety Statement in place Risk Assessments carried out following an accident and corrective action taken Accident and Incident Policy in place and followed	Management, Staff
Medical Neglect	Procedures in place Medicines Policy in place and followed Parental Consent Forms signed Individual Child Care/Emergency Plans in place	Management, staff
Child not collected/ Unauthorised collection and Access Rights Persons unfit to collect	Procedures in place Collections Policy in place and followed Emergency Collectors available, Parental Agreements & Permissions in place Child Registration Form completed with emergency contacts and authorisations. Children are not released to unauthorised persons. Where there is a dispute between parents, we will seek legal clarification regarding access and may require copies of a court order If we have never met a parent and a parent is not listed on the registration form, we may seek clarification of identity before engaging with the parent Children will not be released to parents/guardians who are in an unfit state. Procedure in place School aged children have access to child-friendly policy	Management, staff
Unvetted Staff or students that may lead to children being harmed	Procedures in place Recruitment and Selection Policy in place Garda Vetting Policy in place Relevant validated References available for all staff Child and Adult Protection Policy in place Risk Assessment of Disclosures on Garda Vetting forms completed if required	Management, Staff
Poor behaviour strategies where the dignity of the child is undermined	Procedures in place Managing Behaviour Policy in place and followed Positive strategies only used No Corporal punishment	Management, staff

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	<p>No isolation</p> <p>Professional assistance sought for very challenging behaviour</p> <p>Staff trained in evidence based behaviour management strategies</p> <p>Management support provided to staff in relation to very challenging behaviour</p>	
Risk of harm of abuse when on outings	<p>Procedures in place</p> <p>Outings policy in place</p> <p>All Outings/excursions risk assessed</p> <p>Risk checklist used</p> <p>Vetting in place to include Garda vetting, police checks, validated references.</p> <p>No unsupervised access by unauthorised personnel.</p> <p>Staff aware of mandated requirement to report abuse.</p> <p>Staff trained in child protection</p> <p>DLPs appointed</p> <p>Mandated persons named and listed</p> <p>Visitors or persons unknown to staff will not have unsupervised access and visiting times will, if possible, be arranged when children are not present as they are unvetted</p>	Management, Staff, DLP
Access to inappropriate online resources. Unauthorised sharing of images and information about a child	<p>Procedures in place</p> <p>Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices Policy</p> <p>Parental Consent Forms completed</p> <p>Images only published on social media with parental consent</p> <p>Parents are aware of Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices Policy and their responsibilities</p> <p>School-Aged children aware of the policy regarding phones, tablets and other devices and the Service has devised a child friendly policy for school age children in the Service.</p> <p>No mobile phones allowed in classrooms</p>	Management, staff

Responsibility: The DLP is responsible for ensuring the above risks are managed.

4. Procedures: Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance* and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedures to manage any risk identified
- Procedure for reporting harm or abuse or allegations of these to Tusla by the as provider YMCA Childcare or member of staff (whether mandated or not)

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- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child while attending our service
- Procedure for selection or recruitment of any person as a member of staff of the provider with regards to that person's suitability to work with children
- Procedure for the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training to members of staff in relation to the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for the appointment of a relevant person for the purposes of this statement who is The Manager, Nina Gozdz.

5. Implementation: We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our Service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every *twenty-four months* or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:(Provider)Date.....

Name.....Tel.....

Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015

Name.....Tel.....

For further information on this Statement please contact the Relevant Person
The Manager, Russell Willbourne, 01 4782607.