

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. Obair Community Crèche and After School Project. Full time care provided from aged 3 months to 13 years.

Obair Community Crèche is a registered pre-school providing services for children aged 3 months to 13 years.

The management structure is:

Noreen McNamara – Crèche Manager

Katherine Keyes, Karen Murray & Elizabeth Starr – Room Leaders

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 child-centered practice in all our work with children.
- 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.
- 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, 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.
- 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.

• Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection

DLP: <i>Noreen McNamara</i>	Deputy: <i>Karen Murray</i>
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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 out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

Risk Identified	Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage Risk
Students working with children	Student Policy. No student to be left alone with any child. Students do not bring children to the toilet or change nappies. Only staff members are authorised.
Unauthorised collection of children	Child Collection Policy. If someone other than the main caregivers are collecting a child, Management must be informed. If management are not informed a phone call will be made to the guardian for authorisation to release the child. The child will not be released until Management have spoken to the guardian(s)
Staff working with children	Recruitment Policy. All staff are Garda vetted. Phone and written references sought and verified. Induction training provided. Policies and procedures must be reviewed by all staff. CCTV in all common areas.
Biting, hitting, falling. Children getting their fingers pinched in a door.	Supervision in all childrens rooms. Soft furnishings in place. Changing bench set up ergonomically with all necessary aids. All doors with guards to prevent fingers being crushed. Door handles and switches out of the reach of children. No children left on changing bench unattended.
Slips trips and falls	Clean as you go policy at all times. Floors cleaned out of hours Signage in place if floor is wet. All staff wearing non slip shoes
Fire. Property damage Burns to staff and children	All fire doors in place and checked regularly. Fire exits kept free at all times. Fire extinguishers in place and checked regularly. No children allowed in the cooking area. All equipment maintained by competent person. Fire blanket in kitchen area. Door of kitchen kept locked when not occupied. All exit doors to outside unlocked. Fire exit signs and lights maintained. Lights outside doors. Fire drills carried out
Doors. Finger Crush Injuries. Bangs to head and body	All fire doors in place and checked regularly. Doors have access switches and handles out of the reach of children. Doors have guards to prevent fingers getting caught in them. All doors checked and maintained by a competent person. Emergency routes kept free at all times
Kitchen/food and food server area in Crèche. Biological infections. Food poisoning	Clean as you go policy at all times. All controls in place for safe handling of food and cooking to correct temperature. All controls in place as per café downstairs. FSAI guidelines followed. No children allowed in the Kitchen/cooking area. Transfer counter used. No hot liquids given to the children


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/measures are in place

- Procedures to maintain a list of mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015
- A Relevant Person has been appointed
- A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed
- Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures
- 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 (which 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

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 the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe 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 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: 
Bernadette Glynn, Obair Chairperson

Date: 09/03/2018

For further information on this Statement, please contact: *Noreen McNamara*
Risk Assessment carried out by Noreen McNamara in February 2018

Mandated Persons: All childcare workers in Obair.