



## **Riverside Childcare - Child Safeguarding Statement**

### **1. Name of service being provided:**

Riverside Childcare Ltd. provides

**After School Childcare (Aughrim Setting)**

**Preschool Sessional Childcare (Aughrim and Rathdrum Settings)**

**Full Time Preschool Care (Rathdrum Setting)**

### **2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm**

Riverside Childcare aims to provide high quality childcare within a warm and welcoming environment. The individuality of each child in our care will be respected and nurtured.

At Riverside Childcare we are committed to protecting and safeguarding the welfare of all children attending the service. The safety, welfare and protection of children are of paramount importance and concern to us.

We are committed to prevent abuse, neglect and harm happening to children attending the service and to report any situation of child abuse we may become aware of. For this we at Riverside Childcare believe that it is particularly important that children are listened to, heard and have their views taken into consideration.

In any sort of situation of conflict between parents / carers and children, the children's welfare will always come first.

Children must be protected and treated with respect at all times.

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

### **3. Risk Assessment**

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</b>
1	Recruitment of Staff	All recruited staff will be Garda vetted prior to starting in Riverside Childcare. References will be verified Induction process is in place.



2	<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by a <b>visitor</b> to the service;</p>	<p>Visitors must enter only when accompanied by a staff member/person in charge.          Sign and date visitors book.          Never be allowed to be alone with any child.          Personal mobile phones are <b>not permitted</b> to be used while visiting Riverside Childcare.          External support services for children such as AIM inclusion officer, Speech and Language, Psychologists, Occupational Therapists must produce photo ID and work with management.          Visitors who can access children and staff personal information and observations such as Inspectors from TUSLA, POBAL, DES must produce photo ID, sign in time and date. A member of the management team will accompany such inspectors.          Visitors will be always closely supervised as well as any interaction between children and visitors (for example other parents at collection time) to make sure they are respecting all our policies and procedures.          Parents/carers who visit and <b>stay with their child during transitions</b> can only attend to their own child's needs.          Parents/carers will never be left alone with any other children except their own.          If a parent is supporting their own child with toileting a staff member must be in attendance in the toilet area if other children are using the toilets.</p>
3	<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) caused by <b>unknown person at drop off/collection time</b> and <b>Risk of wrong/unknown person collecting child at collection time</b></p>	<p><b>Drop off and Collection Procedure</b>          Parents/carers walk children to the main door of our room, where a member of staff will welcome them.          Parents/carers to approach the main door at collection time to meet children.  <b>Aughrim Setting Only:</b> A sign will be placed at the main building door (downstairs) to let parents/carers know when the children are in the back garden.          Parents/carers must drop / collect children from there in this case.          If a parent/carer is late, children must stay inside with a member of staff until the parent/carer arrives. Children won't be allowed to leave until parent/carer is recognised by a member of staff.          The service must be informed previously if any unknown person is collecting a child and a full name must be provided to be able to identify the person. This person will be asked to provide a photo ID at the collection.</p>



4	SNA, Pre-school assistants from external agencies such as NDT, Enable Ireland	<p>Information from agency management about the support person received.</p> <p>Garda vetting, photo ID, references from agency received and a copy on file.</p> <p>A meeting with management, parent of child and staff team prior to working with the child.</p>
5	Staff working in room alone with children	<p>Staff working alone work following ratios at all times.</p> <p>A management structure of checking in to the room frequently is in place.</p> <p>Staff member have a means of contacting management or other staff when required.</p> <p>Staff member asks for assistance in relation to assisting children with personal care needs.</p>
5	Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer.	<p><b>Supporting Positive Behaviour Policy and Procedures</b></p> <p>We at Riverside Childcare understand the importance of positive guidance and encouragement towards positive behaviour. This policy sets out the methods used to support children in managing their own behaviour, always respecting the maturity and level of understanding of each individual child. This policy also includes the importance of a positive behaviour been shown by all members of staff at all times.</p> <p>Physical punishments are never used or threatened and children will never be humiliated or mistreated in any way or form.</p>
6	Risk of abuse not recognized / not reported	<p><b>Children Safeguarding Training for Staff Procedure</b></p> <p>All staff members at Riverside Childcare must receive Children Safeguarding Training. They must compromise to stay up to date with any mandatory training in how to Recognise, Report and Record a child protection concern and also to follow up on the Tusla eLearning Programme.</p>
7	Students on Work Placement	<p>All students must produce college verification, Garda vetting, photo ID and references prior to starting work placement.</p> <p>TY students under 18 must have 2 references and school verification of work experience.</p> <p>No student is permitted in Riverside Childcare to work on their own with children.</p> <p>Students are not permitted to help children with personal care needs.</p>
8	Risk of bullying of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer	<p><b>Supporting Positive Behaviour Policy and Procedures - Anti bullying</b></p>



		<p>At Riverside Childcare we recognize that bullying is a repeated behaviour that can take many forms; physical, verbal or emotional. Bullying is an unacceptable behaviour and will be dealt with immediately.</p>
9	Risk of harm of a child from unauthorised photography	<p><b>Use of Internet, Photographic and Recording Devices Policy</b></p> <p>At Riverside Childcare we use the internet, Gmail and Facebook as a means of communication with parents/carers and promotion purposes.</p> <p><b>Procedures:</b></p> <p>Staff are only allowed to take images of children attending the service when an authorisation has been previously signed by parent/carer and with the Service's camera only.</p> <p>Taking any images of children by using any other means apart from the designated Service's Camera won't be allowed.</p> <p>No picture of any child attending the service will be taken without the knowledge of the child.</p> <p>At Riverside Childcare we will always respect and follow GDPR regulations.</p> <p>Parents/carers and visitors are informed that the use of mobile phones and other photographic devices is forbidden (signs are up).</p>
10	Risk of harm of a child from online abuse through social media or internet access	<p><b>Procedure for the adequate use of social media or internet access</b></p> <p>At Riverside Childcare children have no access to the internet.</p> <p>Children won't be allowed to use or carry their own phones during their time in our Service. If a parent/carer needed to contact their child in our Service they can contact our phone number.</p>
11	Risk of harm of a child on outings by a member of staff/volunteer/stranger/peer	<p>Safe methods of transport.</p> <p>Adequate insurance to cover all aspects of the trip.</p> <p>Written parental consent (for each individual trip)</p> <p>Any information about the children which may be relevant as they may be in your care for longer e.g. allergies, medical problems, special needs, etc.</p> <p>Number of staff/volunteers required to adequately supervise children at all times.</p> <p>Ensure that emergency contact numbers for parents/guardians are documented and available at all times.</p>



		<p>There should be one person appointed as the overall leader of the group who will have final decision-making authority during the trip.</p> <p>Ensure that a safety assessment has been conducted</p>
--	--	---

#### 4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), 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:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

#### 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.

Last review date: 30/08/2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on the 30/08/2024 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Michael Dunster (Manager and Provider)

Michael Dunster  
0831835015

For queries, please contact Michael Dunster, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.