

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Nature of service being provided

Over the Rainbow Early Learning Centre Ltd provide quality, safe and affordable early education and care to children aged 2yrs and 8mths to 5½ years in the local community. It is a private service and is classified as a sessional service under the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. The activities within our setting are aimed to enhance the age appropriate development of children in our care under the ECCE programme and follow the guidelines provided under Aistear (National Early Years Curriculum Framework) and Montessori principles. We have a designated, secure outdoor area where outdoor play is encouraged daily. We also provide additional support under the AIM model, when necessary.

Our Vision is to provide children with the best start in life by providing a safe, developmentally appropriate, inclusive environment where children and staff are listened to and respected. We strive to work in partnership with parents, through a culture of listening, to enable everyone to achieve their true potential. We are building a successful learning community which celebrates diversity. We will be welcoming, friendly, respectful, thoughtful and supportive in providing a home-from-home where we can grow and learn together. Understanding the value outings can bring to children's learning and development and how they can enrich our existing curriculum, we also make provision for outings to local places of interest from time-to-time.

We are committed to building a rich picture of children's individual strengths, interests, abilities and needs and using this to support and plan for their future learning and development. Guided by Aistear's themes, aims and learning goals, our practitioners use a variety of methods to gather information on and to document children's learning and development, such as observations, notes, stories, samples of 'work' and photographs. We also record this information from different perspectives including that of the children and their parents. At the end of the year, we share the photographs taken of each child, in their journey book, which is given to each child to take home. We also have a public Facebook page, but no identifying images are used of the children, the images focus on the experiences offered (hands focus) rather than the children faces.

We are committed to providing a safe, educational and happy environment for all children to grow in.

2. Guiding principles to safeguard children from harm

Over the Rainbow Early Learning Centre Ltd is committed to safeguarding the children in our care and to providing a safe environment in which they can play, learn and develop. We are committed to child centered practice in all our work with children and fully comply with ***Children First – National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017*** and the ***Children First Act 2015***.

We recognise the equal right of all children to be protected from harm, treated with respect, listened to and have their views taken into consideration in matters that affect them. All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.

All management, staff, volunteers, and students in this service recognise that the welfare of children is paramount and will be guided by the principles, policies and procedures of the service in how they conduct themselves in their daily roles.

Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect current national policy and legislation and we review our guiding principles and Child Safeguarding Procedures every 2 years, or when necessary, whichever comes first. Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our setting.

3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out a risk assessment of any potential for harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1	<p>Risk of harm of abuse by Staff, Volunteers & Students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rough handling of children by staff in a way that causes harm to a child. - Staff/volunteers shouting at or chastising children to the extent that it causes harm to a child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection and Recruitment of staff Policy & Procedure - Volunteer and student recruitment Policy & Procedure - Complaints Management Policy & Procedure - Behaviour Management Policy & Procedure - Staff Induction and Training Policy & Procedure - Support and supervision of staff Policy & Procedure - Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedure - Children First Training - Garda Vetting and Garda Vetting disclosure Policy & Procedure - Code of Behaviour & Ethics for Staff, Students & Volunteers when Working with Children - Allegation of Abuse Against Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure - Reporting Procedure
2	<p>Risk of harm from peer-to-peer abuse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repeated, extreme acts of bullying (i.e. verbal, psychological or physical aggression between children) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anti-bullying Policy & Procedure - Supervision of Children Policy & Procedure - Complaints Management Policy & Procedure - Staff Induction and Training Policy & Procedure - Accident and Incident Policy & Procedure
3	<p>Risk of harm from unannounced visitors to services (e.g. maintenance/repairs/deliveries).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk of children absconding from services due to procedures for entering and exiting buildings not being adhered to, such as doors being closed etc. - Risk of physical, sexual or emotional abuse to children from visitors - Children placed at risk of harm due to inadequate supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff Absences Policy & Procedure - Risk Management Policy & Procedure - Supervision of Children Policy & Procedure - Visitors Policy & Procedure - Safety Statement - Arrival and Departure Policy & Procedure including Collection Policy & Procedure - Accident and Incident Policy & Procedure - Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedure

4	<p>Risk of abuse during lone working/1:1 working, and intimate care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An incident of sexual abuse by a staff member/ student/volunteer, for example, during intimate care if a child needs assistance, if they have soiled themselves. - An incident of physical abuse by a staff member/ student/volunteer during one-to-one work. - Emotional abuse by a staff member/ student/volunteer taking place during one-to-one work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff Induction and Training Policy & Procedure - Support and Supervision of staff Policy & Procedure - Selection and Recruitment of staff Policy & Procedure - Volunteer and student recruitment Policy & Procedure - Garda Vetting and Garda Vetting disclosure Policy & Procedure - Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedure - Inclusion Policy & Procedure - Code of Behaviour & Ethics for Staff, Students and Volunteers when Working with Children - Allegation of Abuse Against Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure - Clothes Changing Policy & Procedure
5	<p>Risk of harm by use of unauthorised photography or from online abuse through social media or internet access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor management of images or recordings of children, including those taken for the Journey Books or for our Facebook page. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of internet, photographic and recording devices Policy & Procedure (includes procedures for permission from parents and procedures for our Facebook page) - Observation and Assessment Policy & Procedure - Record Keeping Policy & Procedure - Confidentiality and Data Protection Policy & Procedure - Code of Behaviour & Ethics for Staff, Students & Volunteers when working with Children
6	<p>Risk of harm on outings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children placed at risk of harm due to inadequate supervision on outings - A child going missing, or is unaccounted for, for any period of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outings Policy & Procedure - Risk Management Policy & Procedure - Staff Induction and Training Policy & Procedure - Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedure - Accident and Incident Policy & Procedure - Supervision of Children Policy & Procedure - Critical Incident Plan as part of our Outings Policy

4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 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:

- Procedures of the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers / volunteers of a child availing of our service. (See Allegation of Abuse Against Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure)
- Procedures of the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children (See Selection and Recruitment of staff Policy, Volunteer and student recruitment Policy)

- Provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm (See Child Safeguarding Policy)
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla (See Child Safeguarding Policy)
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) who are mandated persons (See Child Safeguarding Policy)
- Procedure for appointing a Designated Liaison Person (See Child Safeguarding Policy)

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be displayed prominently. All procedures are available upon request to staff, parents, young people, members of the public and Tusla.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing 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 as outlined within our Child Safeguarding Policy.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed **August 2023** (every 24 months) or before if deemed so by legislation or inspection.

Signed: **Jennifer Byrne & Ann Marie Healy**
Owners/Managers

For Queries, please contact **Ann-Marie Healy, Designated Liaison Officer, and Relevant Person** under the Children First Act 2015. Contact number: 087 138 0894, email: overtherainbowelc.bn@gmail.com