



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

February 2018

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. NAME OF SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED

Stepping Stones Early Learning Centre is a registered sessional pre-school providing a preschool curriculum for children aged 2½ to 6 years.

The Owner of Stepping Stones Early Learning Centre is Lorraine Farrell. Persons in charge are Michelle Grennan (General Operations Manager) & Louise Preston (Curriculum & Quality Manager) and Carol Muldoon is Preschool Teacher.

Names listed above are mandated persons who are responsible to report any concerns to DPL and/or Tusla. This list will be reviewed annually, if not sooner, when and if a new member of staff/volunteer is taken on in the service.

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.
- Management, staff, volunteers and students in this service recognise that the welfare of children is paramount and our service will endeavour to safeguard children by:
 - Having procedures to recognise, respond to and report concerns about children and staff's protection and welfare that 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.
 - Having a confidentiality policy
 - Having a code of behaviour for management, employees, students and volunteers
 - Having a safe recruitment procedure
 - Having procedures for managing/supervising employees, students and volunteers
 - Having a procedure to respond to accidents and incidents
 - Having a procedure to respond to complaints.
 - Up holding 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 declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/ board members and students on work placement within Stepping Stones Early Learning Centre. 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.
- We have put in place a Designated Liaison Person (DPL) to respond to child protection issues that may arise. The DPL and Deputy is chosen based on their level of Children First training.

DLP: Louise Preston (Manager)
0870984700

Deputy: Michelle Grennan (Manager)
0870984700

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Stepping Stones Early Learning Centre 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
Garda Vetting	Garda Vetting Policy Recruitment Policy Confidentiality Policy
Outings	Outings Policy Garda Vetting Policy Volunteer/Student Policy
Parent's taking photos at preschool events	Photograph Policy Partnership with Parents Policy
Volunteers and student placements	Job description Safeguarding Statement Policies & Procedures Contracts
Visitors to our service	Sign in and out procedure in place

*Please see appendix for detailed risk assessment.

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 Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed
- Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures are in place
- 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
- 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 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 annually 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: Lorraine Farrell

Date: 21/02/2018

For further information on this Statement, contact Relevant Person:

Stepping Stones Early Learning Centre, 0870984700

RISK ASSESSMENT in detail:

Person(s) carrying out Risk Assessment: Lorraine Farrell & Louise Preston

Date: 21/02/2018

Risk Identified	Who is Responsible?	What is Currently in Place to Manage the Risk	What Future Actions are Needed?
Garda Vetting	Lorraine Farrell	Garda Vetting Policy Recruitment Policy Confidentiality Policy	Review policies annually or sooner in accordance with 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.
Outings	Louise Preston & Michelle Grennan	Outings Policy Garda Vetting Policy Volunteer/Student Policy	Review policies annually or sooner in accordance with 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.
Parent's taking photos preschool events	Louise Preston & Michelle Grennan	Photograph Policy Partnership with Parents Policy	Parents will be signposted to our policies and procedures, including our Child Safeguarding Statement on our website upon their child starting their educational journey in Stepping Stones.
Volunteers and student placements	Louise Preston & Michelle Grennan	Job description Safeguarding Statement Policies & Procedures Contracts	Parents will be signposted to our policies and procedures, including our Child Safeguarding Statement on our website upon their child starting their educational journey in Stepping Stones.
Visitors to our service	Louise Preston & Michelle Grennan	Sign in and out procedure in place	Parents will be signposted to our policies and procedures, including our Child Safeguarding Statement on our website upon their child starting their educational journey in Stepping Stones.