



St Andrew's Resource Centre Child Safeguarding Statement

St Andrew's Resource Centre recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and is committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. All staff and volunteers have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

St Andrew's Resource Centre is a Family Resource centre providing services to children through the Childcare Service, Youth Service, Voluntary Tuition Programme, Gloucester Street Sports Centre, Home Help and Care Services, Counselling, Art Therapy and Family Support service. St Andrew's Resource Centre provides services across the life cycle to families in the Pearse Street area of Dublin.

Child Safeguarding Statement

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Board of Management of St Andrew's Resource Centre has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of community life and must be reflected in all of the centre's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, St Andrew's Resource Centre will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare.

St Andrew's Resource Centre will:

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
- Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
- Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the services of St Andrew's Resource Centre
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters

The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, St Andrew's Resource Centre adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars.
- All staff and volunteers who work directly with children are vetted in advance of starting their work in St Andrew's Resource Centre.

In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) St Andrew's Resource Centre will:

- Provide each member of staff with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
- Ensure all new staff are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
- Ensure every staff member completes the online introduction to Children First and completes certification

- Manage allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers within the Disciplinary procedure
- Maintain a list of the employees who are ‘mandated persons’ under the Act
- Provide the Board of Management members with relevant training
- Facilitate the Family Support Department to maintain records of all staff

The policy of St Andrew’s Resource Centre is that all reports from mandated staff to Tusla will go through the DLP - Dara Terry and copies of such reports are stored in Family Support Office.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is	Dara Terry
The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is (Deputy DLP)	Martina McKenna

In St Andrew’s Resource Centre, the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending St Andrew’s Resource Centre or any of its services. A written assessment, setting out the areas of risk identified and the centre’s procedures for managing those risks, is available. As a Resource Centre open to the public, a risk may arise from this public access. This risk is mitigated by appropriate security measures to regulate access and the operation of CCTV throughout the public areas of the Centre.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was formally adopted by the Board of Management on

Signed: 
 Chairperson of Board of Management

21st February 2018.

Signed: 
 Administrator

Date: 9th March 2018

Date: 9th MARCH 2018.