



BEST SCP Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service:

Ballymun Educational Support Team School Completion Programme (BEST SCP)

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

BEST SCP is a company limited by guarantee, with charitable status. BEST SCP is a project funded as part of the School Completion Programme under the umbrella of the Tusla TESS services. BEST SCP provides one to one, group and interagency supports to targeted children and young people, in seven Primary Schools & one Post Primary School in the Ballymun area as well as within the BEST UNIT. BEST operates both in school and out of school activities. The project consists of a Steering Committee, a Board of Management, a Project Manager and a multidisciplinary Project Team.

The Management Committee of BEST SCP recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of SCP and must be reflected in all of its policies, practices and activities. Accordingly, in accordance with the requirements of *Children First: National Guidance for the Welfare and Protection of Children (2017)*, the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (2017)*, School Completion Programme Child Protection Procedures and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy Procedure and Practice*, the Management Committee of BEST SCP has agreed the following Child Safeguarding Statement.

BEST SCP Child Protection Policy acts as a support and reference document for this statement.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) of BEST SCP is Becca Gallagher, Project Manager

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) of BEST SCP is Deirdre O'Beirne, Assistant Manager.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) will act as a liaison with outside agencies and as a resource person to any staff member or volunteer who has child protection/safeguarding concerns. The DLP should ensure that he/she is knowledgeable about child protection and undertake any training considered necessary to keep them updated on new developments. When the DLP is unavailable, for whatever reason, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibility for child protection.

2 Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm 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 identified risk
1	Harm to a child from a staff member	<i>BEST SCP Child Safeguarding Statement</i> and <i>BEST SCP Child Protection Policy</i> to be made available to all staff, in particular; Section 4: Principles of best practice in child protection and welfare, Section 5: Procedures to be followed and

		Section 6: Practices and Activities Relevant to Child Protection.
2	Harm to a child from another child	<i>As above, in particular</i> Section 6: Practices and Activities Relevant to Child Protection.
3	Harm to a child from another adult while attending out of school activities	<i>As above, in particular</i> Section 6: Practices and Activities Relevant to Child Protection.
4	Harm not being recognised or reported promptly by a staff member	<i>As above, in particular</i> Section 5: Procedures to be followed.

3 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 and can be found in the BEST SCP Child Protection Policy:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers of a child availing of our service; (BEST SCP CPP, Section 5.4)
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers to work with children; (BEST SCP CPP, Section 5.5)
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm; (BEST SCP CPP, Section 6.1)
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla; (BEST SCP CPP, Section 5)
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are mandated persons; (BEST SCP CPP, Section 6.1)
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person (BEST SCP CPP, Section 2)

All procedures listed are available upon request.

4 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.

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Tara Wilson, Chairperson, BEST SCP Board of Management

For queries, please contact Becca Gallagher, Project Manager, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.