



BEST Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service:

Ballymun Educational Support Team (BEST)

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

BEST is a company limited by guarantee, with charitable status. BEST is funded as part of the School Completion Programme (SCP) under the umbrella of the Tusla TESS services. BEST 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 Board of Management, a Programme Manager and a multidisciplinary Project Team.

The Board and staff of BEST recognise that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of BEST services 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), School Completion Programme Child Protection Procedures and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy Procedure and Practice*, the Board and Management of BEST has agreed the following Child Safeguarding Statement.

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

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

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) of BEST 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 (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to a child while availing of our services. Risk of harm as defined in the Act means, in relation to a child –

- (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or
- (b) sexual abuse of a child.

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 Child Safeguarding Statement</i> and <i>BEST Child Protection Policy</i> to be made available to all staff, in particular; Section 11: Code of Conduct for Working with Children and Young People Section 12: Guidance on One-to-One Work Section 16: Accidents and Incidents Procedure

2	Harm to a child from another child	<i>BEST Child Protection Policy including</i> Section 14: Anti Bullying Procedure
3	Harm to a child from another adult / visitor while attending out of school activities / activities within the BEST Unit	<i>BEST Child Protection Policy including</i> Section 18: Working in Partnership (external agencies)
4	Harm not being recognised or reported promptly by a staff member	<i>BEST Child Protection Policy including</i> Section 3: Reporting Procedure for Child Protection and Welfare Concerns
5	Harm to a child through unauthorised / inappropriate use of photography, other forms of media, internet or social media.	<i>BEST Child Protection Policy including</i> Section 13: Social Media. ICT and Digital Images Procedure

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 Child Protection Policy:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers in relation to a child availing of our service; (Section 4)
- Procedure for the recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children; (Section 7)
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm; (Section 8)
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla; (Section 3)
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons; (section 10)
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person. (Section 9)

All procedures listed are available upon request.

4 Implementation & Review

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. BEST is committed to protecting all children equally regardless of race, ability, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in April 2027, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Noel Moloney, Chairperson, BEST Board of Management

For queries, please contact Becca Gallagher, Programme Manager, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015. becca.gallagher@bestballymun.org / 087 6845403