



# Child Safeguarding Statement

## 1. Name of service:

Lourdes Youth & Community Service

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

### PHILOSOPHY:

To encourage people to be aware of their own power and how they can use it to effect change and that every person has the right to participate fully in their own, their community's, and their country's development.

### LYCS VISION 2018 - 2020

We envision a time where no person in our community is left behind, when aspirations are high and our community has excellent services and humanising employment. We work to ensure this future by providing opportunities for the oldest, the youngest, newest and most vulnerable people in our community.

Our 'cradle to grave' provision endeavours to create an equality of opportunity for all our neighbours by providing high quality affordable childcare to support relevant educational programmes leading to positive futures characterised by choice.

As the foremost provider of community based education and training services in our community, we work in an ambitious and creative way to address the structural causes of poverty and inequality. Our programmes are needs and evidence based and are continually reviewed and evaluated to ensure the best possible provision in Dublin's north east inner city.

To address the diverse needs of the local community LYCS operates six programmes:

- **Community Training Centre (CTC):** 40 Early School Leavers have the opportunity to gain certified training in FETAC Level 3 & 4.
- **Adult Education Programme** provides informal training and education for over 80 women and men each week, all of who have little or no history of formal education.
- **Crèche** provides 80 places for children aged 1-5 years each day. Parents of children who use the crèche are drawn from all four programmes within LYCS and live locally.
- **Youth Work Programme** offers afternoon, evenings and weekend programmes for young people ages 10-21.
- **Community Employment** provides 36 work placements and training opportunities for long term unemployed adults.
- **Development Education** delivers training & education both in the Dublin region and nationally on making the connection between global issues that their impact locally.
- LYCS is committed to safeguarding the children and young people in our care and to providing a safe environment in which they can play, learn and develop.
- LYCS believes that the welfare of the children attending our service is paramount. We are committed to a person-centred practice in all our work with children and young people.

- LYCS is committed to upholding 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 and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, DCYA, 2017, *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Practice and Procedure*, Tusla, 2018, and the *Children First Act 2015*.
- Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/ board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All committee board members, 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.
- **Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Child Protection**

<b>DLP:</b> <i>Sarah Kelleher</i> CEO LYCS <a href="mailto:sarah.kelleher@lycs.ie">sarah.kelleher@lycs.ie</a> Phone: 087 236 7009	<b>Deputy:</b> <i>Lesley Strahan</i> Childcare Manager LYCS <a href="mailto:Lesley.strahan@lycs.ie">Lesley.strahan@lycs.ie</a> Phone 087 264 3167
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### 3. Risk assessment

In accordance with the *Children First Act 2015*, the Board of Management/Service Provider 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 Procedure in place to manage risk identified

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1	Risk of harm not being recognised by staff	All staff have read and understood the LYCS Policies and Procedures.
2	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by staff. Mandatory reporting is understood and followed by all staff.	All staff having read and understood the LYCS Policies and Procedures.
3	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of staff, visitor or volunteer or another child	All staff having read and understood the LYCS Policies and Procedures.
4	Risk of harm due to bullying of child	All staff having read and understood the LYCS Policies and Procedures.
5	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	All staff having read and understood the LYCS Policies and Procedures.

6	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	All staff having read and understood the LYCS Policies and Procedures.
7	Risk of harm to children with additional needs/language barriers who have particular vulnerabilities	All staff having read and understood the LYCS Policies and Procedures.
8	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	All staff having read and understood the LYCS Policies and Procedures.

#### 4. Procedures

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

As required by the *Children First Act 2015* and *Children First National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children, 2017* the following safeguarding policies/procedures/measures are in place:

- Procedure to maintain a list of mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015
- A Relevant Person has been appointed to manage list
- A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed
- Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures
- 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 Youth Work, CTC and childcare 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

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

Signed:

Will Peters  
Chairperson  
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#### **Procedure in place to Manage Risk Identified**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

- All personnel are provided with a copy of LYCS's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- All staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*
- The service has a Health and safety policy for nappy changing/toileting and outings
- All information is on file and checked in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- All staff know the policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The service follows CDETB Critical Incident Management Plan
- 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:
  - Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service
  - Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
  - Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
  - Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
  - Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
  - Procedure for appointing a relevant person
- All procedures listed are available upon request.