

**MOUNTMELICK YOUTH &
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE
(MYFRC)
CHILD SAFEGUARDING
STATEMENT**



Mountmellick Youth & Family Resource Centre Child Safeguarding Statement

Mountmellick Youth & Family Resource Centre,
MDA Complex,
Irishtown,
Mountmellick,
Co. Laois
R32 A0PK

The aim of the MYFRC is to provide a service aimed at strengthening and empowering children, Young People, families and the community of Mountmellick.

At MYFRC we provide a Tusla registered school age childcare service to children aged from 7 to 17 years.

Our services include:

- Breakfast Club – 1 Group, 5 mornings per week
- Homework Club – 2 Groups, 4 afternoons per week
- SHAPES (Supporting Home and Primary Education Strategies) – 3 Groups
- Fun Club – 2 Groups
- Teen Youth Groups – 3 Groups
- Out of school term activities (e.g., summer/easter activities)
- Youth Counselling
- Adult Counselling
- Child Psychotherapy
- Parent & Toddler Group
- Community Groups
- One to one work
- Meitheal
- Family Support

We take children on trips and outings. The nature of our outings are determined by the appropriate regulations under the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) Regulations 2018. As a part of planning for an outing, a risk assessment is carried out to ensure the building or area is safe for the children & young people that attend our service. We also ensure the appropriate level of insurance is in place. We have a designated, secure outdoor area where we provide learning activities for children. We have outdoor activities for children and young people.

Our Guiding principles to safeguard children from harm:

We believe that:

- ✚ Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.

- ✚ Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and Child Safeguarding Procedures every two years.
- ✚ We believe that all children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
- ✚ We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the right to be kept safe and protected from harm, to be listened to and to be heard.
- ✚ Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation. Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All board members, staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration.
- ✚ Workers/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

Designated Liaison Person at MYFRC

Designated Liaison Person & Relevant Person	Deputy Designated Liaison Persons	
Mike Farrell Manager manager@myfrc.ie 087 644 4963	Niamhie Mooney Youth & Family Development Worker niamhie.mooney.myfrc@gmail.com 086 048 8148	Sarah Bergin Family & Community Development Worker sarah.bergan.myfrc@gmail.com 086 817 7596
Mountmellick Youth & Family Resource Centre, MDA Complex, Irishtown, Mountmellick, Co. Laois		

Risk Assessment

At MYFRC Service 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. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015)	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	<p>Risk of harm of abuse by staff/volunteers.</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to: Rough handling of children by staff in a way that causes harm to a child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment Procedure/Policy Complaints Procedure/Policy Procedure/Policy on Managing Behaviour Staff Training Procedure/Policy Staff Induction Procedure/Policy Child Safeguarding Procedure/Policy Reporting Procedure/Policy

	<p>Staff/volunteers shouting at or chastising children to the extent that it causes harm to a child</p> <p>On-going provision of inadequate food and/or nutrition to the extent that it causes harm to a child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Training Procedure/Policy • Garda Vetting Procedure/Policy • Code of Behaviour for Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure/Policy • Allegation of Abuse Against Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure/Policy • Code of behaviour • Toilet arrangement procedures. • Acceptable internet use guidelines. • Anti-bullying policy • Medication procedures • Substance misuse guidelines • Risk assessment procedures in all locations of operation • Relationship and sexuality education (RSE) policy • Incident report sheet • Healthy eating & physical activity policy • Record of parent/guardian contact
<p>2</p>	<p>Risk of abuse by staff and volunteers not knowing correct procedures.</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>Children placed at risk due to inadequate supervision</p> <p>Children being harmed as a result of staff not reporting appropriate concerns</p> <p>Children being harmed by inappropriate actions or interactions by staff</p> <p>Volunteers supporting staff in groups</p> <p>Students on placement</p> <p>People using the sports complex (staff or volunteers)</p> <p>People using the premises (e.g., staff or volunteers)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Training Procedure/Policy • Staff Supervision Procedure/Policy • Reporting Procedure/Policy • Child Safeguarding Procedure/Policy • Allegations of Abuse against Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure/Policy • Complaints Procedure/Policy • Code of Behavior for staff and volunteers Procedures/Policy • Procedure/Policy on Managing Behaviour • Volunteer policy. • Code of practice for students on placement. • Student supervision policy. • Toilet usage procedure. • MDA & Sports Complex cameras.
<p>3</p>	<p>Risk of abuse during lone working/1:1 working (personal care and intimate care).</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>An incident of sexual abuse by a staff member/ student/volunteer,</p> <p>An incident of physical abuse by a staff member/ student/volunteer during one-to-one work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Training Procedure/Policy • Staff Supervision Procedure/Policy • Recruitment Procedure/Policy • Garda Vetting Procedure/Policy • Child Safeguarding Policy/Procedure • Personal Care Procedure/Policy • Inclusion Procedure/Policy • Code of Behaviour for Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure/Policy • Allegation of Abuse Against Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure/Policy

	Emotional abuse by a staff member/ student/volunteer taking place during one-to-one work	
4	<p>Risk of harm by use of unauthorised photography or from online abuse through social media or internet access.</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to: Poor management of images or recordings of children, including those shared publicly or on social media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/Procedure on the use of the Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices • Social Media Procedure/Policy - Acceptable internet/Social Media use guidelines. • Retention of Records Procedure/Policy • Staff supervision policy • Relationship and sexuality education (RSE) policy • Child Safeguarding Procedure/Policy • Record of parent/guardian contact. • Procedures on protected disclosures. • MYFRC Staff capability & competence. • Disciplinary procedure • Bullying prevention policy • Reporting procedures on incidents • Risk assessment in all locations of operation
5	<p>Risk of harm from unannounced visitors to services (e.g., maintenance/ repairs/deliveries).</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to: Risk of children absconding from services due to procedures for entering and exiting buildings not being adhered to, such as doors being closed etc. Risk of physical, sexual or emotional abuse to children from visitors Children placed at risk of harm due to inadequate supervision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Absences Procedure/Policy • Risk Management Procedure/Policy • Supervision of Children Procedure/Policy • Visitor Signing in Procedure/Policy • Safety Statement Procedure/Policy • Toilet usage procedure. • School cameras.
6	<p>Risk of harm from peer-to-peer abuse.</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to: Repeated, extreme acts of bullying (i.e., verbal, psychological or physical aggression between children) Children using social media platforms to post derogatory comments or pictures of other children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-bullying Procedure/Policy • Supervision of Children Procedure/Policy • Complaints Procedure/Policy • Staff Training Procedure/Policy
7	<p>Risk of harm on outings.</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outings Procedure/Policy • Risk Management Procedure/Policy • Staff Training Procedure/Policy • Child Safeguarding Procedure/Policy • Critical Incident Procedure/Policy

	Children placed at risk of harm due to inadequate supervision on outings A child going missing, or is unaccounted for, for any period of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessment carried out by staff with young people. • Trip away policy • Trip involving overnight stays policy
8	Risk of harm to children Arriving to group outside of group allocated time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early arrival to group procedure. • Late pick up procedures.
9	Risk of harm to a child through an online service during Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for using Video Group Chats in MYFRC • Acceptable internet use guidelines • Bullying prevention policy

Procedures

MYFRC 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.

The procedures listed in our Risk Assessment and the Specified Procedures below support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- ✓ Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person. Mike Farrell has been appointed the Relevant Person
- ✓ Procedure is in place for maintaining a list of the persons in Mountmellick Youth & Family Resource Centre under the Children First 2017
- ✓ A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed
- ✓ Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures/ Child Safeguarding Procedure/Policy are in place and understood by all staff.
- ✓ Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children.
- ✓ Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla (whether mandated or otherwise).
- ✓ Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of our service.
- ✓ Policy for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse or Neglect Against Employees/ Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child while availing of our service.
- ✓ Procedure for Managing Child Protection Records
- ✓ Staff Handbook
- ✓ Recruitment Policy and Procedure in place for selection or recruitment of any person as a member of staff of the provider with regard to that person's suitability to work with children.
- ✓ Garda Vetting Policy
- ✓ Code of Behavior for Working with Children
- ✓ Procedure for provision of information and access, instruction and training of staff of MYFRC in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm, child safeguarding training and information. 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
- ✓ Accident and Incident Policy
- ✓ Code of Practice and Behavior
- ✓ Behavior Management and Code of practice
- ✓ Staff Ratio and Attendance Health and Safety Policy
- ✓ Dropping Off and Collection Policy
- ✓ Visitors to FRC Policy
- ✓ Voice of the Child as paramount
- ✓ Health And Nutrition Policy
- ✓ Food Health and Safety,
- ✓ Hygiene MYFRC
- ✓ Infection Control
- ✓ Medication Management
- ✓ Digital and social Media MYFRC policy
- ✓ First Aid and Health and Safety

Our Child Safeguarding Statement will be displayed prominently in MYFRC, and all procedures will be made available to staff, parents, young people, members of the public and Tusla, if requested.

Implementation and 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.

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.

This Statement was approved by the MYFRC Voluntary Board of Management on **14th October 2025**

Address:

Mountmellick Youth & Family Resource Centre,
MDA Complex, Irishtown, Mountmellick, Co. Laois

Relevant Person Information

For further information on this Statement, contact Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015:
Mike Farrell, Manager MYFRC,
Mail: manager@myfrc.ie
MOB: 087 644 49623