

Statement of Purpose and Function

The purpose of Mountmellick Youth and Family Resource Centre (MYFRC) aim is to provide quality, affordable afterschool care to children aged between 6 to 14 years in the SAC registration and up to aged 18 years for young people within the Youth service within the Mountmellick area. Additionally as a Family Resource Centre the service utilises a Cradle to Grave Philosophy with a holistic methodology.

MYFRC is a community service and is classified as a sessional day care with sessional provision and afterschool care under the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and the School Age Regulations 2018.

Mission Statement and Ethos:

MYFRC offers excellent quality, affordable accessible and family friendly child, youth and family support to all who need this service in the community.

THE MYFRC project, School Age Service operates for 42 weeks of the year. We can cater for up to 60 school aged children at any one time within a group setting. The Family Resource Centre is based within Mountmellick town in three separate locations- MDA Business Park, Irishtown, Mountmellick, Co Laois. Additional work is carried out in both local Primary schools (Early Bird and Homework Club) on Davitt Road as well as Afterschool groups (SHAPES) in Community School Sports Complex, Main Street Mountmellick, the Family Resource Centre, MDA, Irishtown and outreach work in the Mountmellick townland.

We operate in line with the staff/children ratios as set by the (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and the School Age Regulations 2018. Additional adherence in functioning upon TUSLA Child and Family Agency Guidelines, Child care act 1991 and amendment, Children Act 2015, Children First National Guidelines 2017.

Our Vision

Our vision is that all children, families and communities will actively participate and be included in a society that is free from prejudice, inequality, discrimination and exclusion and which will contribute to their greatest possible wellbeing.

Our Mission

MYFRC works in partnership to strengthen and empower young people, adults, families and the community.

MYFRC provides a range of universal and targeted services and development opportunities that address the needs of the people from Mountmellick and surrounding areas.

Our Principles and Values

Early intervention. We aim to intervene with children, young people, families and individuals at an early stage to resolve issues and prevent harm



Strengths based approach: We aim to empower individuals and build on family strengths. We recognise that all families and individuals have strengths unique and depend upon culture, background, beliefs, and socioeconomic status and we work in a way that focuses on positive functioning.

Awareness raising: We work with our service users to raise awareness about a range of issues, including health and wellbeing, education and employment, relevant services and supports through a range of programmes and methodologies, including social media.

Evidence informed/evidence based approach. We ensure that our programmes, interventions and initiatives are evidence based and /or evidence informed.

Collaboration and interagency working. We work in a collaborative manner with our cross sectoral partners in order to maximise resources and to respond to identified needs in the community in an efficient manner

Participation. We consult with our service users as well as key stakeholders in the community in order to ensure that our service is responsive to the needs of community and the voices of our service users are heard. We build on this consultation process in order to ensure the active participation of our service users in the delivery of our programmes and initiatives.

Equality and Equity. We promote equality and equality in our service. We value diversity and treat everyone in a non-discriminatory manner. We also ensure that our service is provided in an equitable way ensuring that everyone is treated fairly.

Professionalism. We work in a professional manner at all times, ensuring that we are compliant with all requirements and are accountable to our service users, management and funders in the delivery of a quality service.

Advocacy. We advocate with and on behalf of our service users to ensure equity of access to services, resources and supports which they require.

Confidentiality. In all of our work, we undertake to maintain confidentiality in line with our professional obligations and with respect to our service users.

Compassion. We approach all of our work with a sense of compassion and work to understand the individual circumstances and situations impacting the people we work with.

Principle: This policy is underwritten by the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and the School Age Regulations 2018.

Description of Service

Type of Setting	School age service
Type of Service	Community Service
Curriculum/ Programmes offered	First Five, Better Outcomes Brighter Futures, Logic Model, Hartiker Model, Lundy Model of Participation, National Youth Strategy, Connecting for Life, Healthy Ireland Framework, Children First, National Legislation
Number of Weeks Open	42 Weeks
Opening Hours	8:00am-6:00pm Monday to Friday. Occasional late evenings and possible weekend events as per needs basis
DCYA Schemes offered	National Childcare Scheme Community Childcare Subvention Programme
Drop off and Pick up Service	No

Number of Children & Staff

SCHOOL AGE CARE	Children/ Young people	Staff
Early Bird (age 7yr -12 years)	16	2 staff & CE (5 mornings per week)
Homework Club (7yr to 12 years)	16 (each day *4 days per week)	3 staff & CE
SHAPES - 3 groups per week (7 years- 12 years)	56 young people (18 YP per group)	3 staff & CE
FUN CLUB - 2 groups (7 years to 12 years)	18 young people per group	3 staff & CE
Teens Groups – 2 groups (12 years – 18years)	9 Young People on Tuesday 16 Young People on Friday	2 staff & CE
Lunch Club (12 years – 18years)	12 Young People on Mondays	2 staff
Parent & Toddler Groups	12 children and parent/ guardian	2 staff
Sessional		
Summer, Easter Camps 6 years – 13 years	Up to 60 Young People	Up to 7 staff & CE
Total number of children	85 School Age Young People, 25 of which do not use SAC	
Total number of Staff	Manager and 7 staff	

Programme of activities:

Programme Name	Function	*Provision of snacks and/or meals
Early-brid Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing Young People for their school day. • Provides opportunity to have fun with friends and have a filling breakfast before the day's learning begins. • Aims to improve attendance, punctuality, concentration, behaviour, and educational attainment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast cereal • Milk, water or juice • Bread or toast • Fresh fruit • Yogurt
Homework Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing assistance for homework completion • Educational monitoring • Developing listening skills • Routine around homework completion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cereal • Milk, water or juice • Sandwiches • Fresh fruit • Soup
SHAPES Groups Supporting Home And Primary Education Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is one of MYFRC's School Age Services • Delivery of programme-based work aimed at supporting the personal, emotional and social development of Young People • Emphasis on promoting increased levels of self-confidence, self-esteem, positive relationship and interaction amongst peers and adults in a safe, respectful environment • Support around taking turns, challenging behaviour and choices and consequences • Programmes are delivered using the mediums of structured/facilitated and unstructured conversations, games, sport, art, crafts, drama and play 	Meals including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Curry • Chicken Goujons • Homemade Burgers • Spaghetti Bolognese • Mexican wraps • Homemade Pizza • Fish Fingers & Roast Potatoes Snacks including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown Bread • Fresh fruit • Milk, water or juice
Teens Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MYFRC have three Teens Youth Groups which includes Tuesday Teens, Friday Teens & Lunch Club • Using models of Youth Work, the aim of the Teens Youth Groups is to empower young people, foster their personal and social development, and encourage their participation in society through non-formal learning and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh fruit • Fresh vegetables • Sandwiches/bread rolls • Hot drink • Milk, water, juice • Yogurt

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The groups aim to develop Young People’s ability to build positive personal and social relationships • They encourage active citizenship, community involvement and empowerment 	
Parent & Toddler Group – Tots & Tea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tots & Teas uses a variety of mediums to support the physical, intellectual, language, emotional and social development of children. • These mediums also encourage confidence building, play and exploration, exposure to different play styles and development of physical and cognitive skills • For parents/guardians or caregivers, the group opens the opportunity for social support and networking, quality time with children, learning and information sharing, reduced isolation, access to resources and the opportunity to meet other parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk, water or juice • Bread or toast • Fresh fruit • Yogurt
Fun Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is one of MYFRCs School Age Services • The Fun Clubs serves the same function as SHAPES after school youth groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh fruit • Fresh vegetables • Sandwiches/bread rolls • Hot drink • Milk, water, juice • Yogurt
Family Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MYFRC is committed to providing a range of supports and services to families to make the day-to-day challenges of family life a little easier to manage • Raising children is a hugely rewarding experience but it is also a very challenging job for parents/guardians • Throughout the course of family life, the responsibility can become overwhelming for parents/guardians • MYFRC aims to support parents/guardians through the difficult times with advice, information and advocacy 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families experiencing parental separation, depression, a death in the family, financial problems, issues with teenagers, difficulties in school, problems around accommodation can seek confidential support from our Development Worker 	
Youth Counselling	This Brief, Solution-focused service is available to children and Young People experiencing psychological, emotional or social difficulties as a result of trauma, anxiety, bereavement, parental separation or other presenting issues. Six sessions are offered to each participant.	
Adult Counselling	Similar to Youth Counselling, this Brief, Solution-focused service is available to children and Young People experiencing psychological, emotional or social difficulties as a result of trauma, anxiety, bereavement, separation or other presenting issues. Six sessions are offered to each participant.	
Child Psychotherapy	Child Psychotherapy recognises that play is the natural language of children and is a child's means of communication and self-expression. The use of play therapy allows for an individual to build a trusting therapeutic relationship, experience permissiveness and acceptance to be themselves, identifies and clarifies expressed feelings and attitudes whilst allowing the participant the space to be and know themselves. Play also helps children discharge energy, disperse feelings, learn to socially engage with others and to make sense of their experiences and feelings and develop their coping skills. Twelve to twenty-four sessions are offered to each participant.	

*Healthy snacks and meals are provided. Children and Young People are consulted with and menus are developed. Allergies and dietary requirements are considered when developing menus

Communication:

This statement is available to parents/guardians/staff/children and young people who attend our service. Should a stakeholder need further information regarding our statement of purpose and function, a staff member can go through this in more detail.

List of policies which inform the work of the service:

- Settling - In Policy
- Homework Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Healthy Eating Policy
- Indoor and Outdoor programme – Afterschool Curriculum
- Use of the internet, photography and recordings, technology usage
- After School Partnership with Parents Policy
- GDPR Policy
- Outings Policy
- Policy on Infection Control
- Policy on Behaviour Management – including Managing Challenging Behaviour
- Complaints Policy
- Dropping off and Collection of School Aged Children Policy
- Child Safeguarding Statement

All policies that underpin the service that can be displayed in a child friendly format will be displayed in poster format to make the service user friendly for children who attend

Review:

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Manager of the MYFRC.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Review History

- Draft 1, December 2019
- Policy Developed January 2020
- Reviewed January 2023
- Reviewed October 2025



**SCHOOL AGE SERVICE - OPENING HOURS
8:00AM-6:00PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY. OCCASIONAL LATE EVENINGS AND
POSSIBLE WEEKEND EVENTS AS PER NEEDS BASIS**

EVERYONE
is welcome here

OUR VISION IS THAT ALL CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES WILL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AND BE INCLUDED IN A SOCIETY THAT IS FREE FROM PREJUDICE, INEQUALITY, DISCRIMINATION AND EXCLUSION AND WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR GREATEST POSSIBLE WELLBEING.

