

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Statement: It is the policy of the Teresian Pre-School to safeguard the welfare of all children by ensuring that they are protected and kept from physical, sexual and emotional harm while they are in the care of our staff.

Our Guidelines and Procedures are in keeping with Children First : National Guidance 2011.

Procedures:

- All staff are carefully selected, trained and supervised.
- All staff are Garda vetted.
- The Designated Liaison Person is Rosaleen Doherty. The DLP deals with the Health Boards, An Garda Síochána and other parties in connection with all concerns or allegations of abuse.
- The Health Board is notified where a person has a reasonable suspicion or reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been or is being abused or at risk of abuse.
- Reporting procedures are in place and confidentiality is kept.
- A written record is kept of all that takes place.

Definitions of abuse

Child Welfare Concern:

A problem experienced directly by a child, or by the family of a child, that is seen to impact on the child's welfare or development, which warrants assessment and support.

NEGLECT

"An omission, where the child suffers significant harm or impairment of development by being deprived of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety, attachment to affection from adults, medical care." (Children First 2.2.1.)

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

"Emotional abuse is normally to be found in the relationship between a parent/carer and a child rather in a specific event or pattern of events. It occurs when a child's developmental need for affection, approval, consistency and security are not met." (Children First 2.3.1.)

Physical Abuse

"Physical abuse is that which results in actual or potential physical harm from an interaction, which is reasonably within the control of a parent or person in a position of responsibility, power or trust." (Children First 2.4.1.)

SEXUAL ABUSE

"Sexual abuse occurs when a child is used by another person for his or her gratification or sexual arousal or for that of others" (Children First 2.5.1.)

REPORTING PROCEDURES

when you have a concern about a child

STAFF/ VOLUNTEER REPORTS TO

Line Manager/DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

Social worker FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATION TO MAKE A STANDARD REPORT

Or

**AN GARDA SIOCHANA - IF A CHILD IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER AND Social
Worker CANNOT BE REACHED**

**DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON INFORMS PARENTS OF CONCERN AND ACTION
TAKEN UNLESS THIS IS LIKELY TO PUT THE CHILD FURTHER AT RISK**

**DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON INFORMS Social Work Department
(Standard Report Form)**

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

Complete confidentiality is observed regarding any abuse issue that is being investigated, except with the persons who need to know when they need to know.

Any break in confidentiality could prejudice the investigation.

ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Procedure for reporting a
child protection
concern

Designated Liaison Person

Consult with statutory authorities

Report

Statutory Authorities

Procedure for dealing
with allegations
against staff

Inform Principal/Employer

Protective measures

Principal advises the
Accused (right to reply)

Disciplinary Procedure