

## SVP CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

### ST JOSEPH'S CHILDCARE CENTRE

SVP provides educational and recreational activities and services to children under 18 years of age nationally through our network of Regions and local Conferences.

SVP is committed to safeguarding children by working under the guidance of our national safeguarding policies and procedures. Our members, non-member volunteers and staff are committed to creating a safe environment for children and young people to grow and develop.

Each SVP Children's Activity or Service will conduct a specific written risk assessment and child safeguarding statement in line with Children First Act 2015, Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998, NVB Act 2012 and 2016, Children First Guidance 2017 and Tusla Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement.

**Region:** South East Region  
**Service:** St Joseph's Childcare Centre  
**Location :** Lower Yellow Rd, Waterford City, County Waterford  
**Relevant Person/s:** Rachel English – [Rachel.english@svp.ie](mailto:Rachel.english@svp.ie) 089 6127503  
**Service description:**

St Joseph's is a community based creche that offers a high-quality service for children aged between 5 months to 12 years. Our service caters for up to 80 families, ranging from full-time, part-time, sessional and afterschool.

We as a service welcome everybody regardless of their background, culture, religious beliefs etc. Our centre's aim / ethos is to provide and promote positive and affirmative relationships between the children, staff and their families in an environment that is homely, welcoming and safe.

Our activities are centred around the 'whole child' to ensure their individual needs are met. We believe that by allowing the children the freedom to choose for themselves, this in turn enables them to grow, develop confidence, gain self-worth and self-belonging while attending our service. This is achieved by having good quality governance that instils best practice always, skilled mandated staff, age appropriate and stimulating curriculums.

Our service is play based and child- led, that allows the children to engage in many different types of play such as construction, imaginary, creative, social and physical play.

At St Joseph's, we revise and update our policies on a regular basis in accordance with all relevant legislations/regulations that oversee the early year services, the Children First Guidelines 2017 set out by the Tusla, the policies and procedures from the SVP, Siolta and Aistear.

The written risk assessment indicates the areas of potential harm, the likelihood of harm occurring, and lists the required policy, guidance, process and practice required to alleviate the risks. It also highlights additional controls that can be put in place to mitigate against the identified risks.

Risks are identified in the following categories:

RISK	LIKELIHOOD	POLICIES TO CONTROL RISK
<p><b>Risk of Harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer.</b></p>	<p>Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 3 Safe Recruitment &amp; Selection, Section 4 Safeguarding Training, Section 5 Safe Management of Activities, and Section 6 Safe Management of Employees &amp; Volunteers).</li> <li>- SVP Policy on Recognising &amp; Reporting Welfare and Protection Concerns About Children or Adults Who May Be Vulnerable.</li> <li>- SVP Volunteer Policy including recruitment, training, and support &amp; supervision.</li> <li>- SVP HR Recruitment Policy and Procedures, recruitment checklist.</li> <li>- Staff/Volunteer Agreements</li> <li>- Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education</li> <li>- St Joseph's Childcare Centre Policies and Procedures</li> <li>- St Joseph's Child Protection Policy and Procedures</li> <li>- St Joseph's Staff and Volunteer Handbooks including all relevant policies</li> <li>- St Joseph's Code of Conduct</li> <li>- SVP Safeguarding Training Programme.</li> <li>- St Joseph's Interaction and Communications policies</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risk of Harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a visitor to the service.</b></p>	<p>Low/Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 4 Safeguarding Training, and Section 6 Safe Management of Employees &amp; Volunteers).</li> <li>- SVP Policy on Recognising &amp; Reporting Welfare and Protection Concerns About Children or Adults Who May Be Vulnerable.</li> <li>- St Joseph's Policies and procedures</li> <li>- Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education</li> <li>- St Joseph's Staff and Volunteer Handbooks</li> <li>- St Joseph's Code of Conduct</li> <li>- Visitors' agreement detailing acceptance and understanding of Code of Conduct</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risk of Harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child on outings by a member of</b></p>	<p>Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 5 Safe Management of Activities, and Section 6 Safe Management of Employees &amp; Volunteers).</li> </ul>

<p><b>staff/volunteer/ stranger/peer.</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SVP Policy on Recognising &amp; Reporting Welfare &amp; Protection Concerns About Children or Adults Who May Be Vulnerable.</li> <li>- St Joseph's Policies and procedures</li> <li>- Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education</li> <li>- Trips/Outings Risk Assessment</li> <li>- Interaction and Communication Policy</li> <li>- Supervision of Children Policy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risk of Harm of bullying of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer.</b></p>	<p>Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 4 Safeguarding Training, Section 5.1.7 Code of Behaviour for Participants, Section 6.1 Code of Conduct, and Section 7.4 Anti-Bullying).</li> <li>- St Joseph's Childcare Centre Policies and procedures</li> <li>- St Joseph's Code of Conduct</li> <li>- Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education</li> <li>- St Joseph's Staff and Volunteer Handbooks</li> <li>- Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>- Child Friendly Anti-Bullying Materials</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risk of Harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child from unauthorised photography.</b></p>	<p>Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 3 Safe Recruitment &amp; Selection, Section 5.1.9 Use of Photography, Video and/or Social Digital Media, and Section 6.1 Code of Conduct).</li> <li>- SVP Policy on Recognising &amp; Reporting Welfare &amp; Protection Concerns About Children or Adults Who May Be Vulnerable.</li> <li>- SVP Social Media Policy</li> <li>- St Joseph's Childcare Centre Policies and procedures</li> <li>- St Joseph's Code of Conduct</li> <li>- Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education</li> <li>- St Joseph's Parent Handbooks</li> <li>- St Joseph's Social Media Policy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risk of Harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child from online abuse through social media or internet access.</b></p>	<p>Low-Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 3 Safe Recruitment &amp; Selection, Section 5.1.9 Use of Photography, Video and/or Social Digital Media, and Section 6.1 Code of Conduct).</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SVP Policy on Recognising &amp; Reporting Welfare &amp; Protection Concerns About Children or Adults Who May Be Vulnerable.</li> <li>- SVP Social Media Policy</li> <li>- St Joseph's Childcare Centre Policies and procedures</li> <li>- St Joseph's Code of Conduct</li> <li>- Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education</li> <li>- St Joseph's Parent Handbooks</li> </ul>
<b>Reporting Concerns</b>	Low-Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SVP Policy on Recognising &amp; Reporting Welfare &amp; Protection Concerns About Children or Adults Who May Be Vulnerable.</li> <li>- SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 2 Key Roles &amp; Responsibilities, and Section 4 Safeguarding Training).</li> <li>- St Joseph's Childcare Centre Policies and procedures</li> <li>- SVP Safeguarding Training Programme</li> <li>- Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education</li> <li>- St Joseph's Induction Training Programme</li> </ul>

In addition to this activity's risk assessment the following procedures are in place throughout SVP as part of our safeguarding policies and procedures:

- Procedures for managing allegations of abuse or misconduct by volunteers or employees against a child availing of our services.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of volunteers or employees to work with children in our services.
- Procedures to access child safeguarding training, including the identification and reporting of harm.
- Procedures for reporting child protection and welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of persons in the relevant services who are mandated persons.
- Procedures for appointing a relevant person for the purposes of the Statement.

SVP, St Joseph's Childcare Centre recognise that implementation is an ongoing process and we are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm.

The Relevant Person/s for this Child Safeguarding Statement: **Rachel English**

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on: **1<sup>st</sup> November 2024**