



Statement of Function and Purpose for Our Afterschool

Services

Afterschool Statement of Function and Purpose

Principal

It is the aim of our afterschool programmes in our facilities to provide safe, affordable, accessible, quality childcare and play opportunities. We hope to support single parents, working families and those in education/training.

Aim

Our aim is to provide after-school care at our facilities, with transportation collection from many of the local schools. Our after-school programme is devised and facilitated by our After-school Coordinator and we have a fantastic team of after-school educators in every centre. Our team is passionate about childcare and are fully committed to fulfilling the needs our after-school children.

Our aim is to take the worrying out of finding suitable care, organising school pickups, homework and meals by offering a school onsite service so that parents can have complete peace of mind knowing that their child is in a safe, structured, stimulating and familiar environment.

Our programmes are child led and we have a wide range of creative and physical activities that children can tap into throughout the afternoon that will positively stimulate them both physically and cognitively while further assisting them in building their confidence and social skills in a more informal environment.

Our aim is to provide best practice activity programme ensuring that each child is catered for in accordance with their age, ability and interest.

Mission Statement

We believe that it is important to be clear about our aspirations for our Childcare Centres. All of our policies and statements should reflect our overall vision for the service we provide.

We want our centres to provide excellence affordable childcare in partnership with parents, that is inclusive, safe and secure while promoting each child's learning and development in a culturally rich and stimulating environment.

Ethos

Our early childhood care and education service is based on a strong value-based ethos. We believe that the values of acceptance, choice, planning, family, encouragement, routine and culture are central to the operation of Precious Children Daycare. These values are applicable to all

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stakeholders, parents/guardians/other care givers, children and staff. They promote a strong caring ethos which benefits us all but particularly your daughter or son.

Acceptance

They feel accepted and affirmed and where their diverse needs are catered for.



Choices

They can make and accept choices.



Planning

They can plan co-operatively, take turns and share resources.



Family

Links with the family and the wider world are affirmed and extended.



Encouragement

They are encouraged to learn with and alongside others.

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Routines

They can identify and feel comfortable with routines, customs and regular events.



Culture

Symbols and representations of their own culture are promoted and respected.

Statement of Intent

Our aim and ethos, weekly programme and golden rules and rewards are on full display in our facility and on our website.

In line with our aims and our ethos we discuss our weekly programme and activities, golden rules and rewards at our weekly age appropriate group meetings.

We review all our policies annual and as when needed in line with operational standards review and changes.

Children for Whom Care is Provided

We provide sessions for up to 30 children during term time and up to 24 children during school holidays from the age of 4-12 years.

The service will provide a friendly, fun and stimulating environment for all who attend irrespective of their culture, abilities or social status, while meeting the social, physical, intellectual, creative and emotional needs of all the children and recognising the individual needs of each child. Children with special needs can be accommodated after consultation between parents, the Manager and Assistant Manager.



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Staffing

Our after-school programme is managed and operated by our team of qualified individuals with vast experience. Our team is reliable, approachable, suitably qualified and experienced staff, including a Manager, Assistant Manager, Administrator, Playleader, Playworkers and Relief Playworkers.

Staffing levels always meet the guidelines requirements set by TUSLA . All staff are garda vetted. The minimum staff ratio is 1:12 with 1 adult to 12 children. All are team members on duty will hold a current First Aid certificate. All staff receive induction training which covers Health & Safety and Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. Staff receive regular supervisions and an annual appraisal.

Facility layout

We are situated in easy access to our renovated Facility Play & Learning Centre. Safety is promoted within the setting and our children are always supervised. We have use of a one large and once medium sized bright room, for fun and games, craft activities and indoor play. The room leads directly off to another two rooms and access to the outside, is an enclosed garden area which comprises of a multi-purpose grassed area housing multiple sensory activity section, willow den and several benches.

The children also have use of our tech room, which is used for craft, homework and relaxing. There are a suitable number of toilets available for use by the children attending and a separate toilet for use by the staff.

Facility offering

At After-school Club, our main objective is to create a fun, relaxing yet stimulating environment.

We create a caring 'home away from home' environment where children can relax and feel comfortable after their day at school. It is a safe, age appropriate space where children can continue to develop their social, physical, intellectual and emotional skills. We cater for all age groups, classes and needs. The afternoon routine revolves around the children and ensuring that all their needs are met, big or small.

Each after-school space consists of a fun-filled activity area, dining area and a distraction free homework area. When children arrive at After-school Club they get the opportunity to



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unwind and have a chat with their friends and leaders, before enjoying a nutritious chef prepared meal/snack.

Then it's time to get started on homework assignments in the distraction free homework area (with one-to-one support when needed). Once homework is complete the children can choose to engage in whatever fun activities or clubs they are currently enjoying.

Fun-filled Activities & Clubs

Our activity rooms are organised into different areas of interest and we regularly update our rooms to reflect the children's favourite activities. From a dress up area to a dedicated games corner, there is something for everyone at After-school Club.

Our after-school team communicate regularly with the children about their activities and consider their feedback and suggestions. Our aim is to create a space that children love to spend time in – so who better to give us this guidance.

One day every week is 'clubs day' and the children can choose from a range of extracurricular activities such as baking, science, tech, craft and Free play. Each Term we organise different activities such as obstacle courses, sports or an interest activity day.

During school holidays our after-school programme changes to full day camps with a new and exciting theme each week.

Opening Times & Afterschool Routine

The After-School Club is open from 7.30-9am for breakfast Club and 1.30pm till 6.30pm Monday to Friday interim time and 8.15am till 6.30pm Monday to Friday in Holiday Club.

We are open on certain mornings during the week for a free coffee club morning at 10:30am for parents to meet and children can use are facility for free play.

We close all Bank Holidays. The Club **may** also be closed the last week in August and over the Christmas and New Year period. These weeks will depend on school opening /closing dates and if maintenance is necessary to the Centre.

7.30am – 9am Sunshine breakfast club where children attend and have a health breakfast, news talk. Then School Dropoffs.



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1.30pm –2.15pm	Children from Junior school arrive at the club are signed over to a playworker at start of the session. Free play Juniors.
2.15pm-3.00pm	Senior children arrive at Club. Register completed. Free play Seniors Juniors Homework Club.
3pm-3.30pm	Snack time (A healthy snack is offered please see our notice board or our website for meal plans, parents are required to report any allergies issues immediately and fill in the correct forms)
3.30pm-4.15pm	Senior Homework Club. Structured and free play Juniors.
4.15-5.15pm	Structured Activities- each day rotated, such as Tech Club, Science Club, Dance Club, Exercise Club, Book Club, Arts and Craft Club, Cooking Club and More.
5.15pm – 6pm	Staged home times, numbers-based activities and free play.

Language Used

The After-School Club is English speaking, but we will endeavour to converse (if possible) with the children in whichever language they are comfortable with, by accessing support and guidance.

We do celebrate diversity and equality and do culture days and week through the school term using learning different languages as one of our topics.

Activities Offered

A wide variety of activities are offered, outdoor play, physical play, creative and imaginative play and opportunities for free play which will all enhance a child's development. Some activities will be planned weekly by playworkers with themes and craft ideas used from the children's meetings. Children are encouraged to participate in the planning and evaluation of activities and offer ideas for equipment when it is being purchased.



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Animals

No animals are kept on the premises.
Visiting workshops may occasionally introduce the children to a variety of living things.

Terms & Conditions

The terms and conditions for using the Club are set out in the Parent Pack, Policies and Procedures and our Contract / Registration forms which include fees, booking arrangements and notice of termination. A Contract / Registration form must be completed before a child can attend. Full details of our terms and Conditions can be review with any client or potential client.

Admissions Policy

The Afterschool Club is open to any child attending any other local school (although we do not offer a pickup service to all). We have an admissions policy which can be obtained from the Manager.

Arrangements for Complaints and Concerns

We welcome suggestions and constructive criticism from parents/carers and children to help us maintain a high-quality service. Please speak to the Manager if you would like to make any suggestions. (A suggestion box is always available in the reception area). From time to time a parent/carer may find it necessary to follow the complaints procedure, copies of which are available from the Manager.

Arrangements for Dealing with an Emergency

The Club has comprehensive emergency procedures. Details can be found in the Parent Pack, Contract / Registration forms or Fire & Emergency Policy. If for any reason we need to make urgent decisions (e.g. school/club closed due to bad weather, no heating, all staff off sick) the Manager will contact all parents will be informed as soon as possible.

Policies, Procedures & Operational Plan



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All our facilities Policies, Procedures and Operational Plan are reviewed and updated as necessary and are available for parents to read. Please see the Manager.

This Statement of Purpose is reviewed and updated as necessary and/or in line with any changes in regulations. Any changes to the service are notified to CIW and the parents/carers.

Privately run service:

This type of service is privately owned and managed by individuals. We are registered with all government agencies and can accommodate your access to funding for your child's grant eligibility to assisted you with fees.