

# Our Vision

Ally's Before & After School Club aims to provide high quality childcare within a warm and welcoming environment. The individuality of each child in our care will be respected and nurtured.

## Overarching Principles

- To provide out of school services with primarily social objectives, whose surpluses are principally reinvested into the school for that provision.
- To have an inclusive approach in recognition of the needs of all children.
- To create a legacy for the benefit of all children, current and future.

## Objectives

Ally's Before & After School Club will:

- Offer an inclusive service, accessible to all children in the school community
- Ensure each child feels happy, safe and secure, allowing them to learn and develop freely in a play centred environment
- Encourage children to take responsibility for themselves and their actions
- Encourage children to develop positive attitudes and respect for themselves and others, in an environment free from bullying and discrimination
- Provide a range of resources and equipment which can be used under safe and supervised conditions
- Offer a programme of activities which meets the needs of each child, promoting their physical, intellectual, emotional and social development, enabling them to become confident, independent and co-operative individuals
- Work in partnership with parents to provide high quality play and care
- Review and evaluate our services to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of children in our care and those of their parents or carers
- Keep parents and carers informed about changes in the administration of the club and to listen and respond to their views and concerns
- Communicate effectively with parents and carers, and to discuss experiences, progress and any difficulties that may arise

- Employ experienced, well trained staff and offer them appropriate support
- Comply with the Children's Act 1989, the Childcare Act 2006, and all other relevant legislation

## **Administering Medication Policy**

If a child attending Ally's Before & After School Club requires prescription medication of any kind, their parent or carer must in advance complete a Permission to administer medicine form. Staff at the Club will not administer any medication without such prior written consent.

Ideally children should take their medication before arriving at the Club. If this is not possible, children will be encouraged to take personal responsibility for their medication, if appropriate. If children carry their own medication (eg asthma inhalers), the Club staff will offer to keep the medication safe until it is required. Inhalers must be labelled with the child's name. Ally's Before & After School Club can only administer medication that has been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist. All medication provided must have the prescription sticker attached which includes the child's name, the date, the type of medicine and the dosage.

A designated staff member will be responsible for administering medication or for witnessing self-administration by the child. The designated person will record receipt of the medication on a Medication Log. They will check that the medication is properly labelled, and will ensure that it is stored securely during the session.

Before any medication is given, the designated person will:

- Check that the Club has received written consent
- Ask another member of staff to witness that the correct dosage is given.

When the medication has been administered, the designated person must:

- Record all relevant details on the Record of Medication Given form

- Ask the child's parent or carer to sign the form to acknowledge that the medication has been given. When the medication is returned to the child's parent or carer, the designated person will record this on the Medication Log. If a child refuses to take their medication, staff will not force them to do so.

The Out of School Club Leader and the child's parent or carer will be notified, and the incident recorded on the Record of Medication Given.

Certain medications require specialist training before use, eg Epi-Pens. If a child requires such medication the Club will arrange appropriate training for staff as soon as possible. Where specialist training is required, only appropriately trained staff may administer the medication.

A child's parent or carer must complete a new Permission to Administer Medication form if there are any changes to a child's medication (including change of dosage or frequency).

If a child suffers from a long term medical condition the Club will ask the child's parents to provide a medical care plan from their doctor, to clarify exactly what the symptoms and treatment are so that the Club has a clear statement of the child's medical requirements.

## **Arrivals and Departures**

Ally's Before & After School Club recognises that the safe arrival and departure of the children in our care is paramount. The Out of School Club Leader will ensure that an accurate record is kept of all children in the Club, and that any arrivals or departures are recorded in the register. The register is kept in an accessible location on the premises at all times. In addition we conduct regular headcounts during the session.

### **Escorting children to the Club**

The Club and school have a clear agreement concerning the transfer of responsibility for children's safety. The school and the Club keep an identical register of children who attend the Club which is updated daily. One member of school staff will escort the children to the Club whilst After school members of staff will wait in the Club for the children to arrive.

If a child is booked into the Club but is not brought by the school staff, we will check whether the child was present at school that day. If the whereabouts of the child is not known, staff will immediately inform the class teacher and the principal, and follow the procedures laid out in the Missing Child policy.

### **Arrivals**

Our staff will greet each child warmly on their arrival at the Club and will record the child's attendance including the time of arrival in the daily register straightaway.

### **Departures**

Staff will ensure that they sign children out including the time of collection before they leave. Children can only be collected by an adult who has been authorised to collect them on their registration form. The child's parents or carers must inform the Club in advance if someone who is not listed on the registration form is to collect the child.

The Out of School Club Leader will contact the main parent or carer for confirmation if they have any concerns regarding departures. The parent or

carer must notify the Club if they will be late collecting their child. If the Club is not informed, the Uncollected Children policy will be followed.

No child will only be allowed to leave the Club alone at the end of the session unless the Club has discussed this with the child's parents and has received their written consent. Children below the age of 8 will not be allowed to leave the Club unaccompanied at any time. Absences If a child is going to be absent from a session, parents must notify the Club in advance.

## **Anti-Bullying Policy**

Ally's Before & After School Club will provide a supportive, caring and safe environment in which all children are free from the fear of being bullied. Bullying of any form is not tolerated in our club, whether carried out by a child or an adult. Staff, children and parents or carers will be made aware of the Club's position on bullying.

Bullying behaviour is unacceptable in any form. Any child who is a victim of bullying will be dealt with in a sympathetic manner. If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff informed, and then discussed with the Club Leader. A clear account of the incident will be recorded in an Incident log. All staff will be informed so that close monitoring of the victim and bully can begin. Parents of both parties will be informed.

Ally's Before & After School Club defines bullying as the repeated harassment of others through emotional, physical, psychological or verbal abuse. Physical: Pushing, scratching, spitting, kicking, hitting, biting, taking or damaging belongings, tripping up, punching or using any sort of violence against another person.

Psychological: Behaviour likely to create a sense of fear or anxiety in another person. Emotional: Being deliberately unkind, shunning or excluding another person from a group or tormenting them. For example, making another person feel 'left out' of a game or activity, passing notes about others or making fun of another person. Verbal: Name-calling, put-downs, ridiculing or using words to

attack, threaten or insult. For example, spreading rumours or making fun of another person's appearance.

Racial harassment can take any of the forms of bullying listed above but is motivated by the victim's colour, race, nationality, or ethnic or national origins. Incidents of racial harassment will be recorded as such on the Incident log. (See our Equalities Policy for more information on how we deal with and challenge discriminatory behaviour.)

### **Preventing bullying behaviour**

Staff at Ally's Before & After School Club will foster an anti-bullying culture in the following ways.

- Encouraging caring and nurturing behaviour.
- Discussing friendships and encouraging paired, group and team play
- Encouraging children to report bullying without fear
- Discussing the issues surrounding bullying with the children, including why bullying behaviour will not be tolerated
- Exploring the consequences of bullying behaviour with the children.

### **Responding to bullying behaviour**

Ally's Before & After School Club acknowledges that despite all efforts to prevent it, bullying behaviour is likely to occur on occasion. Should such incidents occur, the Club will follow the procedure outlined below:

- We will address all incidents of bullying thoroughly and sensitively.
- Victims of bullying will be offered the immediate opportunity to discuss the matter with a member of staff who will reassure the child and offer support.

# Admissions and Fees Policy

Ally's Before & After School Club is an extension of St Aloysius Primary School. We provide care for children between the ages of 5 and 11, serving the children of St Aloysius Primary School. Places are offered on a first-come first-served basis. When all places have been filled a waiting list will be established, with the following order of priority:

1. Siblings of children already attending the club
2. Those requiring the greatest number of sessions/hours per week

## Registration

When an enquiry regarding places is made, parents or carers will be given all the relevant Club information, including:

- Details of the Admissions and Fees policy
- Registration form, medical form, parent contract, booking form, photo permission form
- Behaviour Management policy
- Complaints policy

. The child will be able to attend the Club as soon as the completed forms are received.

## Booking procedure

Parents must complete the necessary paperwork, ie contract, registration, medical, booking and photo permission forms, before their children can attend the club.

## Permanent place

Once booked, if a child does not attend for any reason, you will still be charged for this place. In order to arrange staff cover, parents will be asked to sign up for the hours that they require in advance a two weeks at a time.

We will accept emergency bookings if a place is available, if this place is no longer required you will still be charged for this place.

## Fee structure

Fees are charged at the following rates:

2.00 – 3.00 pm - £6.50

3.00 – 4.00 pm - £6.50

2.00 – 4.00 pm - £13.00

3.00 – 5.30pm - £15.00

2.00 – 5.30 pm - £17.50

Morning Club £25 per month per child

Fees are charged for booked sessions whether the child attends or not. There is a charge of £2.50 per 15 minutes if the child is collected after the agreed collection time. A late collection charge will be added to the next payment.

If fees are not paid on time, the club will contact the parent/carer requesting payment. If they are not paid by the end of the week a formal warning to the parent/carer will be issued and may result in their child's place being withdrawn. Fees are reviewed annually by the after school committee



# Behaviour Management Policy

Ally's Before & After School Club uses effective behaviour management strategies to promote the welfare and enjoyment of children attending the Club. Working in partnership with parents, we aim to manage behaviour using clear, consistent and positive strategies. The Club rules are clearly displayed at every session, and are discussed regularly. Whilst at Ally's Before & After School Club we expect children to:

- Use socially acceptable behaviour
- Comply with the Club rules
- Respect one another, accepting differences of race, gender, ability, age and religion
- Develop their independence by maintaining self-discipline
- Choose and participate in a variety of activities
- Ask for help if needed
- Enjoy their time at the club

Encouraging positive behaviour

At Ally's Before & After School Club positive behaviour is encouraged by:

- Staff acting as positive role models
- Praising appropriate behaviour
- Informing parents about individual achievements
- Offering a variety of play opportunities to meet the needs of the children attending the Club.

It is inevitable that as children develop and learn, there are times when they need support and guidance to understand that their behaviour is not acceptable. Staff at the Club will try to determine the cause or triggers of the inappropriate behaviour to prevent the situation from recurring. Dealing with inappropriate behaviour

- Challenging behaviour will be addressed in a calm, firm and positive manner.
- In the first instance, the child will be temporarily removed from the activity.

- Staff will discuss why the behaviour displayed is deemed inappropriate.

Staff will give the child an opportunity to explain their behaviour, to help prevent a recurrence.

- Staff will encourage and facilitate mediation between children to try to resolve conflicts through discussion and negotiation.
- If the inappropriate behaviour appears to be as a result of boredom, staff will consult with the child to find activities that more fully engage them.
- Staff will consult with parents to formulate clear strategies for dealing with persistent inappropriate behaviour.
- If after consultation with parents and the implementation of behaviour management strategies, a child continues to display inappropriate behaviour, the club may decide to exclude the child in accordance with our Suspension and Exclusions policy. The reasons and processes involved will be clearly explained to the child.

### **Physical intervention**

Physical intervention will only be used as a last resort, when staff believes that action is necessary to prevent injury to the child or others, or to prevent significant damage to equipment or property. If a member of staff has to physically restrain a child, the manager will be notified and an Incident record will be completed. The incident will be discussed with the parent or carer as soon as possible. All serious incidents will be recorded on an Incident record and kept in the child's file. This may be used to build a pattern of behaviour, which may indicate an underlying cause. If a pattern of incidents indicates possible abuse, we will implement child protection procedures in accordance with our Safeguarding policy.

## Suspensions and Exclusions Policy

Ally's Before & After School Club will deal with negative and inappropriate behaviour by using constructive behaviour management techniques. We will involve staff, parents and children to tackle disruptive and challenging behaviour collectively.

We acknowledge that some children will require additional support in order to achieve acceptable levels of behaviour. Where we identify a child with these needs, we will work closely with the parents or carers to deal with the inappropriate behaviour in accordance with our **Behaviour Management policy**.

Where a child persistently behaves inappropriately, we will implement the following procedure:

- Give the child a formal warning; staff will explain why the behaviour is unacceptable along with the consequences of further incidents.
- Staff will encourage the child to discuss their behaviour, to explain their actions and to identify strategies for avoiding such incidents in the future.
- Details of formal warnings, suspensions and exclusions will be recorded on an Incident record and kept in the child's records.
- The formal warning will be discussed with the child's parents, and all staff will be notified.

Staff will inform the manager if a child's behaviour warrants suspension or exclusion.

We will only suspend or exclude a child from the Club as a last resort, when all other behaviour management strategies have failed or if we feel that children or staff are at risk. Suspensions and exclusions will be fair, consistent and appropriate to the behaviour concerned, and will take account of the child's age and maturity as well as any other factors relevant to the child's situation. If appropriate, we will seek advice from other agencies. This may include accessing funding for additional support.

## **Temporary suspensions**

Temporary suspensions will be applied where formal warnings have failed to improve a child's persistent, challenging and unacceptable behaviour.

In the event of an extremely serious or dangerous incident we will suspend a child with immediate effect. We will contact the parents and ask that the child be collected immediately. Immediate suspensions require the manager's agreement.

The Club may temporarily suspend the child for a period of up to 15 consecutive days. If the Club takes this step, we will discuss our concerns with the parents/ carers in order to work together to promote a more desirable pattern of behaviour. At the end of the suspension period the manager will meet with the parents/carers and the child, in order to agree any conditions relating to the child's return to the Club.

## **Permanent exclusion**

In exceptional circumstances, and only when all other attempts at behaviour management have failed, it may be necessary to permanently exclude a child from the setting. If a child is excluded from the Club, the parents/carers will be given a verbal and written explanation of the issues and subsequent actions. The parent/carer has no right of appeal.

# Complaints Policy

At Ally's Before & After School Club we aim to work in partnership with parents to deliver a high quality childcare service for everyone. If for any reason we fall short of this goal, we would like to be informed in order to amend our practices for the future. Our complaints policy will be displayed on the premises at all times, and a summary of complaints is available for parents upon request. Records of all complaints will be retained for a period of at least three years. The Club manager will generally be responsible for dealing with complaints. If the complaint is about the manager, the registered person or other senior member of staff will investigate the matter. Any complaints received about staff members will be recorded on an Incident log and a Complaints log will be completed. Any complaints made will be dealt with in the following manner:

## Stage one

Complaints about aspects of Club activity

: The Club Manager will discuss the matter informally with the parent or carer concerned and aim to reach a satisfactory resolution.

Complaints about an individual staff member:

- If appropriate the parent will be encouraged to discuss the matter with staff concerned
- If the parent feels that this is not appropriate, the matter will be discussed with the Club Manager, who will then discuss the complaint with the staff member and try to reach a satisfactory resolution.

## Stage two

If it is impossible to reach a satisfactory resolution through informal discussion, the parent or carer should put their complaint in writing to the manager. The Club Manger will

- Acknowledge receipt of the letter within 7 days
- Investigate the matter and notify the complainant of the outcome within 28 days

- Send a full response in writing to all relevant parties, including details of any recommended changes to be made to the Club's practices or policies as a result of the complaint
- Meet relevant parties to discuss the Club's response to the complaint, either together or on an individual basis. If child protection issues are raised, the Club Manager as Designated Senior Person may then need to contact Social Care and follow the procedures of the Safeguarding Children Policy.

If a criminal act may have been committed, the Club Manager will contact the police.

# Confidentiality Policy

At Ally's Before & After School Club we respect the privacy of the children attending the Club as well as the privacy of their parents or carers. Our aim is to ensure that all those using and working at Ally's Before & After School Club can do so with confidence.

We will respect confidentiality in the following ways:

- Parents can ask to see the records relating to their child, but will not have access to information about any other children.
- Staff will only discuss individual children for purposes of planning and group management.
- Staff will be made aware of the importance of confidentiality during their induction process.
- Information given by parents to Club staff will not be passed on to third parties without permission unless there is a safeguarding issue (as covered in our Safeguarding Policy).
- Concerns or evidence relating to a child's safety will be kept in a confidential file and will not be shared within the Club, except with the designated Child Protection Officer and where necessary the Ally's Club leader.
- Issues relating to the employment of staff, whether paid or voluntary, will remain confidential to those making personnel decisions.
- Confidential records are stored securely in a lockable file.
- Students on work placements are informed of our confidentiality policy and are required to respect it.

## **Sharing information with outside agencies**

We will only share information with outside agencies on a need-to-know basis and with consent from parents, except in cases relating to safeguarding children or criminal activity. If we decide to share information without parental consent, we will record this in the child's file, clearly stating our reasons. We will only share relevant information that is accurate and up to date. Our primary commitment is to the safety and well-being of the children in our care.

## **Data Protection Act**

We comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998, regarding obtaining, storing and using personal data.

## **Equalities Policy**

At Ally's Before & After School Club we will ensure that we provide a safe and caring environment, free from discrimination, for everyone in our community including children with additional needs.

In order to achieve the Club's objective of creating an environment free from discrimination and welcoming to all, the Club will:

- Respect the different racial origins, religions, cultures and languages in a multiethnic society so that each child is valued as an individual without racial or gender stereotyping
- Not discriminate against children on the grounds of disability, sexual orientation, class, family status or HIV/Aids status
- Help all children to celebrate and express their cultural and religious identity by providing a wide range of appropriate resources and activities
- Strive to ensure that children feel good about themselves and others by celebrating the differences which make us all unique individuals
- Ensure that its services are available to all parents/carers and children in the local community
- Ensure that the Club's recruitment policies and procedures are open, fair and non-discriminatory
- Work to fulfil all the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2012
- We will monitor and review the effectiveness of our inclusive practice by conducting an Inclusion Audit on an annual basis.

**Challenging inappropriate attitudes and practices**



We will challenge inappropriate attitudes and practices by engaging children and adults in discussion, by displaying positive images of race and disability, and through our staff modelling anti-discriminatory behaviour at all times.

### **Racial harassment**

The Club will not tolerate any form of racial harassment. The Club will challenge racist and discriminatory remarks, attitudes and behaviour from the children at the Club, from staff and from any other adults on Club premises (eg parents/carers collecting children).

### **Children with additional needs**

Our Club recognises that some children have additional needs or physical disabilities that require particular support and assistance. We will assess the individual needs of each child in consultation with their parents prior to their attending the Club, and will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that children can access our services and are made to feel welcome.

## Participation Policy

At Ally's Before & After School Club we believe that actively promoting the participation of children in the decision-making process creates a sense of partnership and benefits everyone at the Club - children, staff and parents. We therefore involve the children whenever decisions are made that affect them. We follow the principles set out in Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which state that: "A child's opinion should be taken into account in anything that affects them. Children should have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions."

Involving and consulting children helps them to develop new skills such as negotiation, sharing, and understanding the perspectives of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made, and shows them that their opinions are important. At the Club we actively consult the children and encourage them to participate in making decisions about the running of the Club through:

- Asking questions and paying full attention to the child's response, listening to what they are saying verbally (or through use of visual aids) and also observing their body language
- Group discussions
- Regular questionnaires and gathering other feedback on activities
- Regular Club Council meetings, between children and staff

The age and maturity of each child, together with the type of the decision being made, determine the extent and nature of their involvement, however, the basic assumption is always that children will be involved.

We make sure that we act on any consultation with the children so that they can see that their input has had visible outcomes. If children suspect that the consultation is just window-dressing they will disengage from the process.

At the Club the children have the opportunity to participate and make decisions on a day-to-day basis, including, but not limited to:

- Choosing freely what type of play to engage in
- Preparing snacks themselves

- Selecting new equipment for the club
- Drawing up club rules
  - Using our suggestion box to request new resources, activities or other changes
- Activity planning

# Play Policy

All children are entitled to play; it is intrinsic to their quality of life and an important part of how they learn and enjoy themselves. According to the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2012),

“Play is essential for children’s development building their confidence as they learn to explore to think about problems and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play that is guided by adults.”

At All’s Before & After School Club we recognise the importance of play to a child’s development and follow the Playwork Principles. As play workers we support and facilitate play, and do not seek to control or direct it. We will never force children to participate in play, but allow children to initiate and direct the experience for themselves. Facilitating play We support and facilitate play by:

- Providing an environment which is safe and suitable for playing in
- Setting up the Club so that activities are ready before the children arrive
- Providing a range of equipment, resources and activities on a daily basis, and keeping a record of these to ensure that varied play opportunities are offered
- Encouraging children to request additional or alternative equipment as they choose, and if a request has to be refused, explaining why
- Not expecting children to be occupied at all times • Making outdoor play available every day, unless the weather is particularly bad
- Involving children in planning activities, to reflect their own interests and ideas
- Planning activities that enable children to develop their natural curiosity and imagination
- Allowing children freedom of creative expression, particularly in artistic or creative play
- Intervening in play only when necessary - to reduce risks of accident or injury, or to encourage appropriate social skill.
- Warning children in advance when an activity or game is due to end

## **Play areas and equipment**

All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked and risk assessed daily before the children arrive in accordance with our Risk Assessment policy.

The Club keeps an inventory of resources and equipment, which is updated regularly and reviewed to identify where any additional resources are required.

Children are involved in selecting additional equipment and resources for use at the Club.

The resources used at the Club promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities, in line with our Equal Opportunities policy.

The Club has their own selection of books where there is a selection of fiction and non fiction books, suitable for all age ranges.

## Safer Internet Use

Ally's Before & After School Club recognises that the Internet is a useful resource for both staff and children, for purposes of research, homework and entertainment.

Children will only be allowed to access the Internet at the Club if their parent or carer has given written permission.

A copy of the **SMART** guidelines will be printed out and kept next to the computer. The guidelines will be explained to any children wishing to access the Internet:

**Safe:** Keep safe by not giving out personal information – such as name, email, phone number, address, or school name – to people who you don't trust online.

**Meeting:** Never agree to meet anyone you have only met online unless your parent or carer is with you.

**Accepting:** Do not accept emails or instant messages, or open files, images or texts from people you don't know. They can contain viruses or nasty messages.

**Reliable:** Not all the information found on the Internet is reliable and people you meet online won't always be telling the truth. Tell: Tell a member of staff or your parents if someone or something you encounter online makes you feel uncomfortable.

## **Mobile Phone/Smart Watch Policy**

Ally's Before & After School Club fosters a 'culture of safety' in which the children and staff are protected from abuse, harm, and distress. We therefore have a clear policy on the acceptable use of mobile phones/smart watches that is understood and adhered to by everyone - staff, children and parents. Abiding by the terms of the club's mobile phone/smart watch policy ensures that we all:

- Protect children from harm and abuse
- Prevent staff from being subject to false allegations
- Help staff remain focused on the care of children
- Work in an open and transparent environment.

### **Staff use of mobile phones**

Personal mobile phones belonging to members of staff are kept in cupboard, staff room, kitchen, during working hours. If a member of staff needs to make an urgent personal call they can use the club phone or make a personal call from their mobile in the cupboard. If a member of staff has a family emergency or similar and needs to keep their mobile phone to hand, prior permission must be sought from the Head teacher.

Under no circumstances may staff use their personal mobile phones to take photographs at the club during working hours.

### **Children's use of mobile phones**

Whilst we understand that some children have mobile phones, we actively discourage them from using their phones within the club.

Children must not use their mobile phone/Watch to take photographs of any kind or record whilst at the club. If they want a photograph of a particular activity they can ask a member of staff to take one using the club camera.

The club does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones/Watches brought to the club by the children.

### **Visitors' use of mobile phones**

Parents and all other visitors must not use their mobile phone – or any other device - to take photographs within the club. This includes taking photographs

of their own children. If they want to have a photograph of their child involved in an activity or at play, parents can ask a member of staff to take one using the club camera



## Missing Child Procedure

At Ally's Before & After School Club we are always alert to the possibility that children can go missing during sessions. To minimise the risk of this happening staff will carry out periodic head counts, particularly when transporting children between locations.

If a child cannot be located, the following steps will be taken:

- All staff will be informed that the child is missing.
- Staff will conduct a thorough search of the premises and surrounding area.
- After 15 minutes the police will be informed. The Out of School Club Leader will then contact the child's parents or carers.
- Staff will continue to search for child whilst waiting for the police and parents to arrive.
- We will maintain as normal a routine as possible for the rest of the children at the Club.
- The Out of School Club Leader will liaise with the police and the child's parent or carer.

The incident will be recorded in the Incident Log. A review will be conducted regarding this and any other related incidents along with relevant policies and procedures. We will identify and implement any changes as necessary.

# Fire Safety and Risk Assessment

Ally's Before & After School Club understands the importance of vigilance to fire safety hazards. To this end:

- Staff are aware of the location of all fire exits, the fire assembly point and where fire safety equipment is stored
- Fire drills will be conducted at least once a month or whenever new staff or children join the club
- All children will be made aware of the location of fire exits and the fire assembly point
- Fire doors and fire exits are clearly marked, are not obstructed at any time and are easily opened from the inside
- Fire doors are kept closed at all times but never locked
- Fire extinguishers, fire alarms and smoke alarms are regularly tested in accordance with manufacturer's guidance
- All fire drills are recorded in the Fire Drill Log
- The Club has notices explaining the fire procedures positioned next to every fire exit

## **Fire prevention**

The Club will take all steps possible to prevent fires occurring by:

- Ensuring that power points are not overloaded with adaptors
- Ensuring that the Club's No Smoking policy is always observed
- Checking for frayed or trailing wires
- Checking that fuses are replaced safely
- Unplugging all equipment before leaving the premises
- Storing any potentially flammable materials safely In the event of a fire
- A member of staff will raise the alarm and call the emergency services.

- The children will immediately be escorted out of the building to the assembly point using the nearest marked exit.
- No attempt will be made to collect personal belongings, or to re-enter the building after evacuation.
- The premises will be checked by the Staff and the register will be collected, providing that it is safe to do so.
- If it is safe to do so, staff will close all doors and windows to prevent the spread of fire when they leave the building.
- The register will be taken and all children and staff accounted for.
- If anyone from the register is missing, the emergency services will be informed.

## **Illness and Accidents**

At Ally's Before & After School Club we will deal promptly and effectively with any illnesses or injuries that occur while children are in our care. We take all practical steps to keep staff and children safe from communicable diseases.

All parents or carers must complete the Medical Form when their child joins the Club, requesting permission for emergency medical treatment for their child in the event of a serious accident or illness.

We will record any accidents or illnesses, together with any treatment given, on an Incident Record or Accident Record sheet as appropriate, which the parent or carer will be asked to sign when they collect the child.

Ally's Before & After School Club cannot accept children who are ill. If any children are ill when they first arrive at the Club we will immediately notify their parents or carers to come and collect them. Any children who have been ill should not return to the Club until they have fully recovered.

### **First aid**

The Club's designated First Aiders are Mrs Bradley and Mrs Crean. The designated First Aiders have a current first aid certificate and have attended a 12 hour paediatric first aid course. To ensure that there is a qualified first aider present at every session of the Club, other members of staff will also receive first aid training.

The designated First Aider regularly checks the contents of the first aid box to ensure that they are up to date, appropriate for children and comply with the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981.

The Out of School Club Leader will ensure that a first aid kit is taken on all outings and that at least one member of staff on the outing holds a current paediatric first aid certificate.

### **Procedure for a minor injury or illness**

The first aider at the session will decide upon the appropriate action to take if a child becomes ill or suffers a minor injury. If a child becomes ill during a session, the parent or carer will be asked to collect the child as soon as

possible. The child will be kept comfortable and will be closely supervised while awaiting collection.

If a child complains of illness which does not impair their overall wellbeing, the child will be monitored for the rest of the session and the parent or carer will be notified when the child is collected. If a child suffers a minor injury, first aid will be administered and the child will be monitored for the remainder of the session. If necessary, the child's parent will be asked to collect the child as soon as possible.

### **Procedure for major injury or serious illness**

In the event of a child becoming seriously ill or suffering a major injury, the first aider at the session will decide whether the child needs to go straight to hospital or whether it is safe to wait for their parent or carer to arrive. If the child needs to go straight to hospital, we will call an ambulance and a member of staff will go to the hospital with the child. The staff member will take the child's Medical Form with them and will consent to any necessary treatment (as approved by the parents on the Medical Form). We will contact the child's parents or carers with all urgency, and if they are unavailable we will call the other emergency contacts that we have on file for the child.

After a major incident the Club Manager and staff will review the events and consider whether any changes need to be made to the Club's policies or procedures.

We will notify HSE under RIDDOR in the case of a death or major injury on the premises (eg broken limb, amputation, dislocation, etc – see the HSE website for a full list of reportable injuries).

### **Communicable diseases and conditions**

If a case of head lice is found at the Club, the child's parents or carers will be discreetly informed when they collect the child. Other parents will be warned to check their own children for head lice, but care will be taken not to identify the child affected. If an infectious or communicable disease is detected on the Club's premises, we will inform parents and carers as soon as possible.

If there is an outbreak of a notifiable disease at the Club, we will inform the local health protection unit, HSE under RIDDOR (if appropriate).

# **Risk Assessment Policy**

Ally's Before & After School Club uses its risk assessment systems to ensure that the Club is a safe and secure place for children and staff. All staff are expected to undertake risk assessments as part of their routine tasks.

The Club will carry out regular risk assessments and take appropriate action to deal with any hazards or risks identified. It is the responsibility of the Club Manager to ensure that risk assessments are conducted, monitored and acted upon.

Risk assessments will be carried out:

- Whenever there is any change to equipment or resources
- When there is any change to the Club's premises
- When the particular needs of a child necessitate this

Note that not all risk assessments need to be written down. Staff will decide, in consultation with the Club Manager, which risk assessments need to be formally recorded. If changes are required to the Club's policies or procedures as a result of the risk assessment, the Club Manager will ensure that the relevant documents are updated and that all staff are informed.

## **Daily checks**

We will carry out a visual inspection of the equipment and the whole premises (indoors and out) daily, before any children arrive. During the course of the session, staff will remain alert to any potential risks to health and safety. If a member of staff discovers a hazard during the course of a session, they will make the area safe (eg by cordoning it off) and then notify the Club Manager. The staff will ensure that any actions needed to mitigate the immediate hazard have been taken and will implement measures to prevent the incident from recurring.

## **Recording dangerous events**

The Club Manager will record all accidents and dangerous events on the Incident or Accident Record sheets as soon as possible after the incident. If the incident affected a child the record will be kept on the child's file. The Club will monitor Incident and Accident Records to see whether any pattern to the occurrences can be identified.

Related policies See our related policies: Fire Safety and Risk Assessment, Health and Safety

## **Safeguarding Children Policy**

Ally's Before & After School Club is committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which the children in our care are protected from abuse and harm. The Club will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur. The Club's child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and with guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

The Club's designated Child Protection Officer (CPO) is the Club Manager. The CPO coordinates child protection issues and liaises with external agencies (eg Social Care, the LSCB).

### **Forms of child abuse and neglect**

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or by failing to protect them from harm. Some forms of child abuse and neglect are listed below.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve making the child feel that they are worthless, unloved, or inadequate. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Physical abuse can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may be also caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This can involve physical contact, or non-contact activities such as showing children sexual activities or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. It can involve a failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, to protect a child from physical and emotional harm, to ensure adequate supervision or to allow access to medical treatment.

### **Signs of child abuse and neglect**

Signs of possible abuse and neglect may include: • significant changes in a child's behaviour

- deterioration in a child's general well-being
- unexplained bruising or marks • comments made by a child which give cause for concern
- inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff, or any other person, for example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their role, or inappropriate sharing of images.

### **If abuse is suspected or disclosed**

When a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff will:

- Reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to speak out
- Listen to the child but not question them
- Give reassurance that the staff member will take action • Record the incident as soon as possible.

If a member of staff witnesses or suspects abuse, they will record the incident straightaway. If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that the Club is obliged to do so and the incident will be logged accordingly.

### **Logging an incident**



All information about the suspected abuse or disclosure will be recorded on the Logging a concern form as soon as possible after the event. The record should include:

- Date of the disclosure or of the incident causing concern
- Date and time at which the record was made
- Name and date of birth of the child involved
- A factual report of what happened. If recording a disclosure, you must use the child's own words.
- Name, signature and job title of the person making the record

The record will be given to the Club's CPO who will decide whether they need to contact Social Care or make a referral. All referrals to Social Care will be followed up in writing within 48 hours.

If any member of staff thinks that the incident has not been adequately dealt with, they may contact Social Care themselves.

### **Allegations against staff**

If anyone makes an allegation of child abuse against a member of staff

- The allegation will be recorded on an Incident record form. Any witnesses to the incident should sign and date the entry to confirm it.
- The allegation must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and to Ofsted. The LADO will advise if other agencies (eg police) should be informed, and the Club will act upon their advice. Any reports to the LADO will be followed up in writing within 48 hours.
- Following advice from the LADO, it may be necessary to suspend the member of staff pending full investigation of the allegation.

Promoting awareness among staff The Club promotes awareness of child abuse issues through its staff training. The Club ensures that:

- Its designated CPO has relevant experience and receives appropriate training
- Safe recruitment practices are followed for all new staff
- All staff have a copy of the Safeguarding Children policy, understand its contents and are vigilant to signs of abuse or neglect
- All staff are aware of their statutory requirements with regard to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse
- Staff are familiar with the Safeguarding File which is kept in a cupboard
- Staff are familiar with the 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused' flowchart

Its procedures are in line with the guidance in 'Working Together to Safeguard

Children (2012)'. Use of mobile phones and cameras Photographs will only be taken of children with their parents' permission. Only the club camera will be used to take photographs of children at the Club, except with the express BYT Before & After School Club permission of the manager. Neither staff nor children may use their mobile phones to take photographs at the Club.