**Code of Ethical Behaviour**

Cairdeas Community Childcare recognises the importance of a Code of ethical behaviour between staff and children as recommending in *Our Duty to Care.* Our Code of Ethical Behaviour is kept under regular review. It supports all staff and volunteers to have a clear understanding of what is acceptable with respect to their behaviour with children. This policy is informed by the Equal Status Acts 2000-2004, the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child (UNCRC, 1989) and the National Disability Strategy as well as the Children First Act 2015 and the *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*

All staff and volunteers who work with children and parents in Cairdeas elect to follow our code of ethical conduct:

We value the importance of childhood and understand that it must be nurtured, respected, valued and supported.

We believe each child has unique qualities and abilities and will guide and support them to the best of their potential.

We believe childhood is an essential foundation for successful lifelong learning, social integration and personal development

We understand that each child’s individuality, strengths, rights and needs are central to the provision of quality childhood experiences.

We recognise parents are the primary educators of the child and that they have a pre-eminent role in promoting his/her well-being, learning and development.

We understand the importance of strong, responsive relationships that are consistent. These relationships are essential to the learning and development of our children.

We believe equality is an essential characteristic of quality early childhood education and care.

We respect diversity and ensure all children and families have their individual, personal, cultural and linguistic identity validated.

We promote and protect the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all the children in our care.

We understand the role of the adult in providing quality early childhood experiences is fundamental.

We follow a play based emergent curriculum which takes a holistic approach to the development and learning of all children.

November 2022