**Curriculum Statement**

Our service facilitates the holistic learning and development of each child in our setting. Our name is inspired by the classic Aesop’s fable ‘The Oak and the Willow’ which emphasises nurturing resilience. We feel this represents our journey as a service and our overarching ethos based on strengthening emotional development and wellbeing. Our curriculum is a broad-based, flexible, well-documented programme which emphasises hands-on activities, mental well-being and connection to nature. The curriculum borrows aspects from Aistear, the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework of Ireland; High Quality Outdoor Learning; Forest School Curriculum and Steiner Waldorf Education.

The principles are:

* Discovery – Child-led; Inquiry-based; Play-based; Active participation; Differentiation; Real-life, hands-on experiences.
* Balance – Well-being; Spiritual Development; Rhythm; Building Self-esteem and Emotional Resilience; Self-regulation.
* Citizenship – Social Skills; Connection to world (Place-based learning); Cultural Development; Respect for Diversity; Communication; Community Involvement; Social justice; Inclusive.

Observations of the children during free play, small group time, circle time and yoga become the starting points out of which the curriculum plan emerges. Their interests and areas for development are elicited and then the curriculum is planned, reviewed and evaluated based on these observations.

In our home-from-home environment, we engage in free play, small group time, creative open-ended projects, physical education with a focus on fundamental movement skills, mindfulness and children's yoga. We promote helpful behaviour which is fostered in a culture of co-operation and collaboration which enables the child's confidence and self esteem. Through play-based, child-led, open-ended acitivies, children's curious dispositions are nurtured enabling them to become competent, confident learners. If you have any queries or would like further information, please do not hesitate to ask a member of our team.

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Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

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Print Name of Parent/Guardian