BEA'S PLAN B

AFTERSCHOOL GROUP

# Statement of Purpose and Function

**NOTE: This Statement is available to all parents/guardians, staff and children on our website, and it will be handed on the welcoming pack.**

## Afterschool Programme

1. Purpose of the Programme

Bea´s Plan B group exists initially to help children reconnect with practical life skills, community values, and a slower, more mindful way of living providing children with a safe, welcoming, happy and stimulating environment. Considering the high needs of afterschool services due to the busy working schedules parents have, and the financial struggle, we decided to establish it between the end of the school day and their collection by their parents or guardians.

The programme provides children with opportunities to relax, socialise, eat meals and snacks, participate in creative and educational activities, and develop practical skills in a supportive community environment.

Our aim is not simply to provide childcare, but to create an environment where children can learn, explore, create, connect with others and develop confidence and independence through practical experiences.
We believe that children benefit from opportunities to learn outside of a purely academic or screen-based environment.

Our programme therefore focuses on practical life skills, creativity, curiosity, community values and a slower, more mindful approach to learning and play.

2. Children We Serve

The programme is designed to provide afterschool care for school-aged children between 7 and 14 years old, who require supervision and care after the end of the school day until they are collected by an authorised parent or guardian.

The programme will accommodate a maximum of 12 children, allowing us to maintain a welcoming, personal environment where staff can understand and respond to the individual needs and interests of each child.

We aim to create an inclusive environment in which every child is treated with respect and has the opportunity to participate, regardless of their background, abilities, interests or circumstances.

3. Daily Services and Activities

The programme will provide a combination of childcare, structured activities, practical workshops and opportunities for social interaction.

Daily services may include:
• Breakfast club.
• Supervised care from the end of the school day until collection.
• A welcoming environment for children to relax and socialise.
• Meals and snacks.
• Creative arts and crafts.
• STEM-based activities and practical experiments.
• Hands-on projects and workshops.
• Outdoor activities and learning.
• Opportunities for independent and collaborative play.
• Practical life-skills activities.
• Seasonal and community-based projects.

Activities will be adapted to the children's ages, abilities, interests and developmental needs.

4. Practical Life Skills and Hands-On Learning

A central purpose of our programme is to help children reconnect with practical life skills and hands-on learning that can sometimes be overlooked in an increasingly digital and screen-focused world.

Children will have opportunities to learn through doing, experimenting, making and problem-solving.

Activities may include:
• Basic cooking and food preparation.
• Sewing and simple textile projects.
• DIY and repairing.
• Crafting and creative projects.
• Recycling, reusing and repurposing materials.
• Basic gardening and growing food.
• Simple STEM experiments.
• Learning about basic solar energy concepts.
• Exploring simple water-filtering principles.
• Practical problem-solving and building activities.

The intention is to encourage children to become curious, resourceful and confident in trying new things, while understanding that learning can take place through everyday practical experiences.

5. Monthly Projects: Recycle, Reuse and Repurpose

Each month, children will be encouraged to participate in a themed project based around the principles of Recycle, Reuse and Repurpose.

Through DIY, crafting, sewing, construction and other creative activities, children will explore how everyday materials can be given a new purpose rather than simply being discarded.

These projects will encourage:
• Creativity and imagination.
• Environmental awareness.
• Problem-solving.
• Practical skills.
• Resourcefulness.
• Teamwork.
• An understanding of sustainability.

6. Outdoor Learning

Outdoor space will form an important part of the programme.
Children will be encouraged to spend time outdoors and develop a practical understanding of the natural world and their environment.

Depending on the season and activities available, children may participate in:
• Growing fruit, vegetables, herbs and other plants.
• Basic gardening.
• Learning where food comes from.
• Exploring simple solar energy concepts.
• Simple water-filtering projects and experiments.
• Nature-based activities.
• Environmental and sustainability projects.
• Outdoor creative and STEM activities.

Outdoor learning will provide children with opportunities to explore, observe, experiment and develop practical knowledge through direct experience.

7. Cooking and Shared Meals

The programme will provide simple, age-appropriate cooking and food-preparation activities. Children may learn basic skills such as preparing simple foods, understanding ingredients, following instructions, practising kitchen safety and developing an appreciation for food and shared meals.

Where appropriate, children will have the opportunity to sit together and share meals, encouraging conversation, cooperation, social connection and community.

8. Community and Spirit of Service

An important value of the programme is developing a spirit of service and community responsibility. We want children to understand that being part of a community also means helping and contributing to others.

Where appropriate and suitable for their age, children will be encouraged to participate in:
• Community projects.
• Volunteering opportunities.
• Charitable activities.
• Fundraising initiatives.
• Projects supporting local organisations or community members.
• Activities that encourage kindness, generosity and consideration for others.

Participation will always be age-appropriate, voluntary where appropriate, and properly supervised.

9. Social and Emotional Development

The programme will provide children with opportunities to develop positive relationships with peers and adults.
Through group activities, collaborative projects, shared meals and play, children will be encouraged to develop:
• Communication skills.
• Cooperation and teamwork.
• Empathy and respect.
• Confidence and independence.
• Problem-solving skills.
• Responsibility.
• Respect for others and their environment.

We will promote positive behaviour and clear personal boundaries, and we will not tolerate bullying, discrimination or behaviour that makes another child feel unsafe or unwelcome.

## 10. Partnership with Parents and Guardians

We recognise parents and guardians as important partners in supporting children's wellbeing and development.
We aim to maintain open and respectful communication with parents and guardians and to share relevant information about their child's participation, wellbeing or any concerns that may arise.

Children will only leave the programme with a parent, guardian or other person who has been appropriately authorised to collect them, in accordance with the programme's collection and safeguarding procedures.

## 11. Safeguarding and Child Welfare

The safety, welfare and wellbeing of the children in our care are fundamental to the operation of the programme.
All activities will be appropriately supervised and organised with consideration for children's ages, abilities and individual needs.

The programme will maintain appropriate safeguarding, health and safety, emergency, collection and behaviour-management procedures.
Staff and volunteers will be expected to follow these procedures at all times. Any safeguarding concern will be treated seriously and managed in accordance with the programme's safeguarding procedures and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

## 12. Overall Aim

Our overall aim is to provide more than a place for children to stay after school. We aim to create a small, caring community where children can slow down, connect with others, spend time outdoors, make things with their hands, learn practical skills, develop confidence and discover the satisfaction of contributing to their community.

Through a combination of care, creativity, practical learning, outdoor experiences, shared meals and community activities, we hope to help children develop skills and values that will support them not only during their school years, but throughout their lives.