

Acorns Short Breaks: Statement of Purpose



Rose Road Association, Bradbury Centre, Aldermoor
Road, Southampton, SO16 5NA

A Company Limited by Guarantee Number 1366534.
Registered Charity Number 276172.

Introduction

Acorns is registered in England as a Children's Home. This means it must provide a "Statement of Purpose" for the information of people who use the home, including children, families and those who fund children to stay.

There are 25 items which must be included in a Statement of Purpose.

So that this is an easier read and is useful for everyone, we have separated items into two parts. Part 1 is the most useful information when someone is first starting to use Acorns. Part 2 includes all the other items which people might not need as often.

We also put a lot of information on our website including a visual tour of Acorns and comments from people who have used the service. This can be found at:

www.roseroad.org.uk

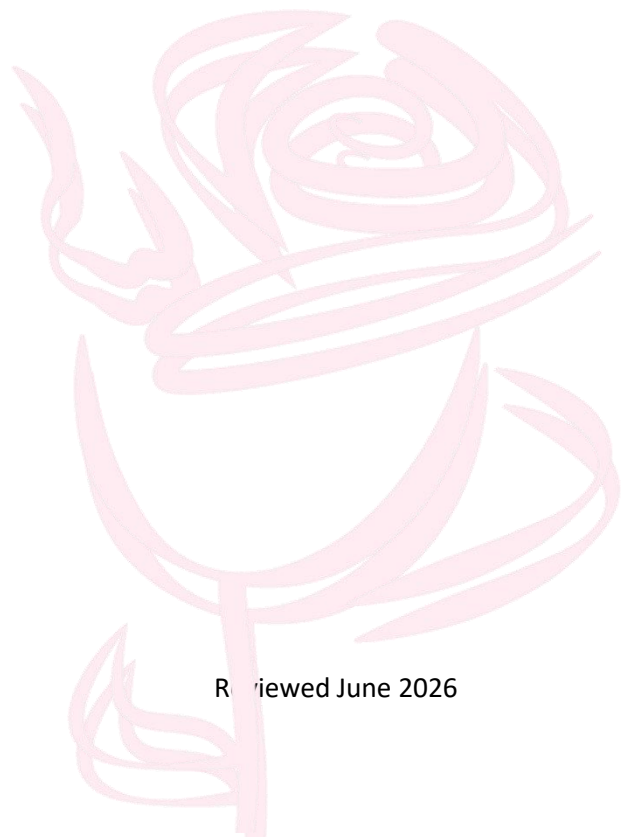
We welcome enquiries at any time and will give you a warm welcome.

Tina Fullbrook

Registered Manager

023 8072 1219

tinafullbrook@roseroad.org.uk



Acorns Short Breaks: Statement of Purpose	
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Responsible Body:	The Board of Trustees The Rose Road Association Bradbury Century, 300 Aldermoor Road, Southampton, SO16 5NA
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Registered Manager:	Tina Fullbrook
Chief Executive:	Steve Swift
Responsible Individual:	Steve Swift



Part One

1.1 Our Vision and Aims

Aims

As an association we have worked closely with staff and families to establish an association wide values framework to support all employees now and into the future. It sets out recognised behaviours which put our values into practice and will provide a consistent approach and clear expectations of everyone working in Acorns, which in turn will lead to standards being raised for the benefit of the children using Acorns.



We also aim to:

- Recognise and respond to each child as an individual with the right to privacy, dignity, choices, and respect.
- Use a holistic approach to each individual's needs, ensuring each person can achieve their own outcomes in their physical, intellectual, emotional, social and behavioural development and achieve as much independence as possible.
- Work with parents and other agencies through individual care plans and programs designed to encourage maximum development and independence for each child/young person.
- Provide a friendly and homely environment, which is safe and secure, comfortable, stimulating, fun, well equipped and enabling.
- Provide opportunities for new friendships to develop for children outside of their home.

- Extend horizons through experience, to enable individuals to develop and practice new skills and to provide leisure activities within the centre and the wider community.
- Provide support and continuity for families by recognising their needs through flexible regular planned breaks and emergency support.
- Consult with, and listen to families, enabling them to express their views and those of their child/young person, and to influence how the service is run and developed.



1.2 Who is Acorns for?

Acorns is registered as a children's home that provides overnight short breaks. We support children with a variety of care packages from as little as 6 overnights a year to 75+ nights a year. We are also able to accommodate longer term placements of 17 days+ if required under certain circumstances, however, this will be assessed and reviewed by the registered manager before agreeing a long term placement, as our intention is not to provide long term placements without a break in provision.

We provide support for children with Profound and multiple learning disabilities, complex health needs, physical disabilities and severe learning disabilities and/or Autism in Hampshire and Southampton. The building is fully accessible for children with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and complex health needs with disabled parking on site and a specially adapted building that houses 7 bedrooms. Our aim is to provide a caring and nurturing environment aiming to make it a 'home from home' space for each child.

The accommodation is in a spacious single-story unit. Acorns has 7 bedrooms designed for children and is registered with OFSTED. Acorns also has an open plan communal day room and dining area.



Acorns is situated in a residential area with local shops and pharmacy nearby, there is a hospital within a 10-minute walk and Acorns is situated on a bus route which gives us access to local parks and the town centre.

In Acorns your child will have a choice of a single or shared bedroom.

All bedrooms are individually decorated with matching bedding and curtains, and décor relevant to children.

Your child will be encouraged to bring in personal belongings to personalise their room. Where possible we allow children to choose the rooms that they stay in.



In Acorns there are 8 beds in daily use. Short breaks are available on a regular planned, occasional and emergency basis. Trained staff provide support to children on a ratio of 1 to 2, 1 to 1, 2 to 1 basis, dependent on the needs and funding requirement of the child, an assessment would be carried out to assess the need for each individual child.

Acorns has a twin bedroom, and this can be used for siblings or for children who wish to have a sleepover with friends where this may not be possible at home due to the equipment needed.

One of the bedrooms also has a 'safe space' bed, in addition to the usual bed, that can be used for your child if we have the correct permissions in place. This could be for sleeping or it could be for quiet/safe time during the day.

Southampton City and Hampshire County Council Children's Services along with Southampton and Hampshire NHS Commissioning Group purchase most of the available bed nights for individual Children which are assessed as needing this. You are also able to purchase nights privately through personal budgets or private funds, we also provide nights to individuals through funding from charitable trust funds, which can be used flexibly as agreed with the funder. This is subject to assessment and eligibility criteria.

Any child with severe learning disabilities or profound and multiple learning disabilities (which may also include children/young people with additional physical disabilities, autism or complex health needs) is eligible for referral.

The age for children staying within Acorns is between 4 and 18 years, there is the possibility of staying in Acorns up until a young person's 19th Birthday.

The service can provide for those with challenging behaviour when carefully planned, but due to the needs of other users, it is not suitable for users with severe challenging behaviour.

In exceptional cases, a child/young person's short breaks may become inappropriate, and an alternative short breaks setting may then be recommended, this process is undertaken in consultation with the placing authority.

How Acorns and Oaks work:

Adjacent to Acorns is Oaks where young people aged 18 upwards can stay. Oaks is completely separated from Acorns with its own facilities.

Young people can stay in Oaks from the age of 16 where appropriate and carefully planned as part of their transition to adulthood. Staff are employed to work across both Acorns and Oaks and have knowledge of all the children and adults.

On any one shift staff are dedicated to either Acorns or Oaks. Oaks has no upper age limit, but the service is essentially for younger adults. It is registered with, and subject to the regulations of, the Care Quality Commission.



1.3 Emergency Admissions

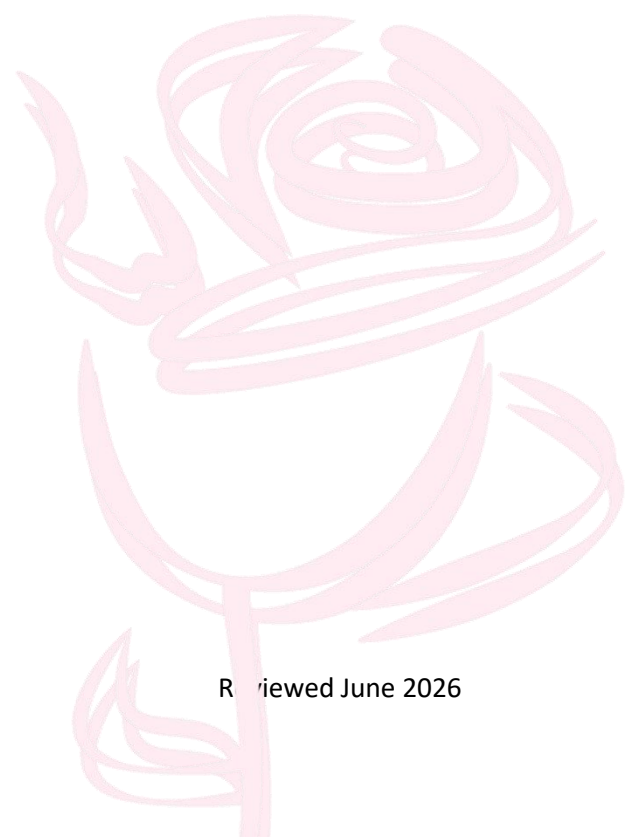
In the event of a family emergency, we will try to respond positively if your child is already known to us. On these occasions we will work closely with you and your social worker to provide an appropriate response which causes minimal disruption to other families and try to meet your needs.

Acorns on occasions can provide an emergency placement to families of children not already known as long as full discussions with social worker and/or parent take place and an approved care plan is in place before they start. We would also recommend that staff meet the child before admission. We will follow our referral process to ensure all assessments are complete before a stay is considered.

Normal admission varies from 1 night up to 2 weeks. On rare occasions we may admit someone for a prolonged stay, this would depend on circumstances around the child. A prolonged stay would be for exceptional circumstances, but the child should always have a placement to return to.

There may be some circumstances where we would need to consider a longer stay as a bridging gap before a permanent placement is found.

This type of emergency admission can only take place if we have staff competent in the care needed to provide a safe environment, or if we work alongside other agencies who hold honorary contracts to support with care while Rose Road staff receive the appropriate training and support.



1.4 Facilities and Activities

In addition to the facilities as described above all bedrooms have profile beds and overhead hoists giving full access to users with physical disabilities and complex health needs. Our bathrooms also have overhead ceiling hoists and specialized baths ensuring all areas of Acorns is suitable for children who are physically able and have physical disabilities. Rooms are clearly identified with a PECs symbol and word so a child with communication difficulties can orientate themselves around the building.

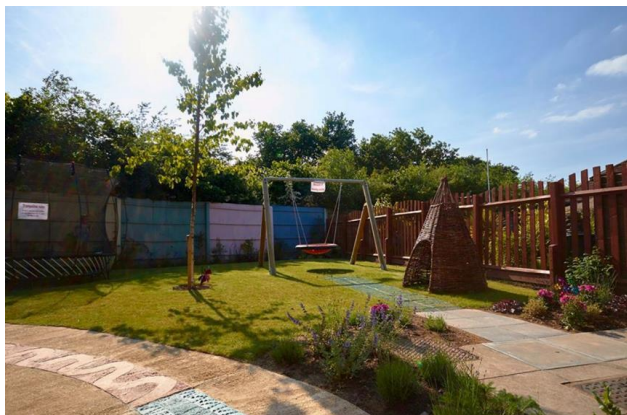
The building is secure with coded doors on external doors, some internal access doors, kitchen doors, laundry rooms, cleaning cupboards and store cupboards. These can be unlocked if appropriate to provide opportunities for children to develop independence skills.

We have a number of vehicles and have good public transport links enabling access to community activities such as cinema, bowling, theme parks and restaurants, activities are used to promote and develop independence skills, provide opportunities and provide equality for children.

The use of internal and community activities will give your child a fun and stimulating stay with opportunities to develop independence skills in a supportive and safe environment with skilled staff.

We have a range of activities in house available including: arts and crafts materials, mobile sensory trolley, Wii, TV, DVDs, games, puzzles, books, garden games and toys, and cooking equipment. Children are encouraged to choose activities using their preferred method of communication. There is a multi-sensory room, soft play and hydrotherapy pool within the facilities. The garden provides children with the opportunity to play in a fun and sensory stimulating environment.

Friendships that develop whilst staying are considered when planning stays. We actively encourage friendships through shared activities, outings and mealtimes.



1.5 Who runs Acorns?

Acorns is registered as a Children's Home by Ofsted who are responsible for ensuring our standards are maintained.

It is part of the Rose Road Association's charity status that it is run by a Board of Trustees who are volunteers and who appoint professional managers and staff to run different areas of its work. Trustees include parents and professionals from the public and private sector.

The trustees monitor the quality and effectiveness of the service provided to agreed standards. Acorns have an independent Regulation 44 inspector that provides unannounced monthly inspections and produces a report which is sent to Ofsted. All care services are also scrutinised by the quality, standards and people meetings that take place quarterly which are made up of trustees and senior managers.

The Service Managers for Acorns are accountable to the Head of Overnight Services who is accountable to the Association's Chief Executive who reports to the Board of Trustees.

1.6 Staff training

The Rose Road Association provides full training for all staff.

All staff must attend mandatory training and updates. These include: moving and assisting, epilepsy, safeguarding, medication awareness, first aid, health and safety and a range of clinical tasks.

We also have online training program for all staff provided by grey matter.

If your child has a specific health or behavioural need and staff require additional training this will be organised, where possible prior to your child's first stay. If we are unable to provide the training in-house, we will source it from an external provider. On occasions there will be tasks that we are unable to provide training for as these are classified as non-delegable health care tasks that can only be carried out by registered medical professionals.

On occasions where we are unable to meet appropriate staffing levels with our contracted staff. We have a team of bank support workers employed by Rose Road who are able to cover shifts. These staff receive the same training and level of supervision as contracted staff. We also have good links with agencies and in the event of us being unable to cover a shift with Rose Road staff we would arrange for a member of agency staff to work at Acorns. We have identified agency staff who have become familiar with our routine and service, and we would initially request these staff should the need arise. We also have records of training for all agency staff attending the service and their competencies are assessed by managers and shift leaders to ensure they are competent and safe to work with Children.

The team consists of the Registered Manager, 2x service managers, 5x Shift Managers, 3x Respite Managers, 6x Shift Leaders, Support workers, Night support workers, Bank support workers, Housekeepers and Drivers and consists of both male and female staff.

All support staff are aimed to be enrolled to complete the NVQ Level 3 after completion of their 6-month probation and within a year of employment.

The Registered Manager holds a Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare as do both service managers.

Staff are qualified to diploma level three in one of the following qualifications:

- Caring for Children and Young People
- Care and Education
- Childcare, learning and development
- Health and Social Care
- Special Needs and Education
- Children and young people's workforce
- Residential Diploma

We also have staff with the following qualifications:

- Degree in Social Work
- Level 4 health and social care
- Certificate of Education
- Qualified midwife and nurse
- Degree in Sociology
- Degree in Childhood and Youth and Community Studies

All staff have First Aid qualifications. A full list of staffing and qualifications are available via the workforce development plan.

Supervision of Staff

The staff team have regular supervisions with the aim being every 4-6 weeks. This provides the team with additional support in working with the children in the home as well as discussing development requirements. All staff members receive an annual appraisal. Supervisions and appraisals are undertaken in conjunction with the staff member and all aspects of the role are appraised and reviewed. Targets are set for the development of the staff member and this is discussed in supervisions and also forms part of the appraisal process upon successful completion of their probationary period.

1.7 Making sure you are satisfied with the Acorns

Our policy and practice is always to empower children, young people and adults to take an active part in the development, delivery and evaluation of our services. We value, respect and listen to our children and young people. Staff are trained and skilled in communication methods including Makaton and PECs for non-verbal children and young people.

The views and opinions of the children in the home are integral to the happiness of the child, their progression and development within the home. We will gather feedback from you and your child in the format which meets individual needs, e.g. verbally or pictorially. Staff are skilled in communicating with children with profound disabilities. They recognise non-verbal cues such as nodding, gestures, smiling, or changes in behaviour that give an indication of a child's views on the service.

Staff are expected to ensure they take the views of each child during shifts and this is done by asking them if they are happy, sad or ok with an opportunity to write what has made them feel this way, or for those children who are unable to communicate this verbally staff will communicate using other methods to gather this feedback. This information is then collated and reviewed on a regular basis.

Annual surveys distributed by Ofsted to the home are another consultation method. Children are supported and encouraged to participate in these online surveys to provide Ofsted with feedback on the care they receive.

Staff record any observations or verbal feedback they have received about likes/dislikes and children's choices into the care plan. Staff will continually ask children, using their preferred communication method, about their stay and if they have enjoyed particular activities and meals. To obtain their views pictures, photos, PECs or objects of reference can be used as prompts.

Your child's keyworker will attend children/young person's reviews. Where these are attended by your child, he/she can give feedback on the service at Acorns.

During Ofsted and CQC inspections inspectors may meet with your child and gain their views on the service. This feedback in the Inspection reports influences our action plan following every inspection.

The Rose Road Association has a Complaints and Concerns Policy and Procedures, and a clear process and protocol for staff to follow. This stipulates the timescale in which specific actions need to be taken. The policy will be given to all who use the service, with an easy read version where appropriate and we encourage feedback from users. We encourage children to take part in Ofsted easy access questionnaires for there feedback.

Any complaints are reported to quarterly monitoring meetings with the commissioners of the services to ensure they are kept fully informed and the Chief Executive reviews actions taken in relation to all complaints and disputes on a regular basis, examining for patterns in complaints and ensuring necessary action is taken to address training or systemic issues.

We use complaints positively to change policies and practices. We have developed parents' involvement in changing policies and recruiting managers. We see parents as partners in improving our services. We also encourage children, families and staff to feedback compliments. This is important in celebrating quality.

Within the home we accept and promote difference and diversity. All staff receive regular training on anti-discriminatory practice and there is an underpinning model of promoting anti-discriminatory practice at all levels. The home will operate in a child centered way, always taking into account every aspect of the child, their family, history and culture.

All children regardless of their race, religion, culture, disability or sexual orientation will have their individual needs met and staff will endeavour to ensure that needs are met at all levels, either internal or external provision will be sought if the need arises.

Although we continually strive to provide care and support of the highest quality,

we acknowledge that you may, on occasions, want to make a complaint about the service.

If you wish to make a complaint please contact the Manager or any of the Assistant Managers of Oaks and Acorns, giving details of your concerns. You may do this by talking to the Manager or writing/emailing them at oamanagers@roseroad.org.uk

Tina Fullbrook – Registered Manager of Oaks & Acorns	02380 721 238
Steve Swift – Chief Executive	02380 721 234

If you have complained to the Association about your treatment here, or about any aspect of the running of the Home which is causing you concern, and are dissatisfied with the response from the Association, then it is open to you to complain to Ofsted, which is the authority responsible for inspecting this Home under the provisions of the Children's Homes Regulations 2014

You may do this by contacting:

Ofsted	Piccadilly Gate Store Street Manchester M1 2WD Tel: 0300 123 1231
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You can also complain to the local authority which funds your child to receive the service. If you are still dissatisfied at the response of the local authority, then the Ombudsman may be able to help you. They may investigate complaints from members of the public who think that they have suffered injustice as a result of misadministration by a local authority. You can contact the Local Government Ombudsman by calling 0300 061 0614.

PART TWO

2.1 Health

It is the aim of Acorns to recognise and respond to your child as an individual, promoting a healthy lifestyle which will include food choices, identified support and information to achieve a healthy outcome for them.

We have links with health professionals to ensure accurate support is agreed and documented in care plans.

Staff will be trained to meet the individual health needs of your child. This training will be provided by a competent practitioner.

Rose Road work alongside a clinical training company to deliver training to staff supporting children with any delegable health care tasks and work alongside each staff member to sign them off as competent.

Your child should be well enough to stay for their short break. We will not be able to accept children for their short break if they are suffering from any illness that may be contagious. We have to ensure the wellbeing of all children /young people in our care.

If your child becomes ill during their stay, we will contact you to advise you of their symptoms and our concerns. We may request your child is collected and returned home.

If your child becomes severely ill and needs immediate medical attention we will contact the emergency services and notify you, or your emergency contact, of our actions. If no one is available and your child needs hospital admission we will ensure they are supported by a member of staff and all relevant information is provided to the medical services until you are able to provide someone to care for your child.

Protocols for health-related issues i.e. epilepsy, diabetes and oxygen levels will be included in the care plan. These will be developed in consultation with you and any relevant professionals.

Medication

Please refer to the Medication Handling Policy for the Rose Road Association.

The Rose Road Association medication policy which covers:

- Staff training
- Safe keeping
- Administration and recording
- Managing drug errors
- Controlled medication
- Covert Medication
- PRN medication
- Homely remedies
- Drugs on admission and discharge

Staff in Acorns all receive training on all medication protocols, on specific conditions such as diabetes and epilepsy, and administration of medication. Staff are not able to administer medication until this training is completed and they have been deemed competent. Main medication rounds are conducted by a member of the management team.

Prescribed medication can only be administered if the medication has a pharmacy label and corresponds to the signed consent/patient summary. The label must also clearly state the following:

- Name
- Name of medication
- Strength of dose
- Amount and frequency of dose
- Date of prescription

The medication must be in its original container and in date. We will accept blister packs that have been prepared by the pharmacy.

If medication is incorrect on admission or consent is not available you will be contacted and may be asked to come in to administer the medication. We will do our best to contact your GP or other health professionals to obtain consent so your short break will not be disturbed.

2.2 Education

If your child stays at The Acorns in term time, they will continue their education at whichever School/College they regularly attend. If they require transporting to and from their School/College, it will be the responsibility of you or your social workers, to ensure that the appropriate transport is arranged. If your child's funders have made agreement for the Rose Road Association to undertake transport this will be by an approved driver and suitable escort.

Your child will be encouraged to complete their homework when staying for their short break and will be provided with a suitable space to work in. Outcomes for the children are identified in conjunction with you and schools and may include some of their educational targets, however we aim to work towards developing independent skills. It is recognised that all children learn and develop through play and participation and this is actively encouraged.



2.3 Activities

We will provide a positive experience for your child through having a good understanding of their needs, likes and dislikes whilst ensuring their religious and cultural needs are met. Through the care planning process we will gain knowledge of your child which enables us to meet their needs. Children will also have opportunities to try new experiences, which broadens their choices and develops additional skills.

Our lead for activities is Toni Ramsden – Assistant Manager

Your child will have the opportunity to participate in in-house activities including:

- Arts and crafts
- Music and karaoke
- Cooking
- Games, puzzles and reading
- TV and DVDs
- Wii
- Soft play
- Sensory experiences
- Garden play
- Swimming

We encourage all children to develop their independence skills by supporting them with making drinks, assisting with meal preparation, tidying up, packing and unpacking bags, and with personal care.

We will also provide opportunities to access community activities including:

- Bowling
- Cinema
- Theme parks
- Shopping trips
- Boat trips
- Restaurants

Children are always offered opportunities to participate in activities and choices are given using their preferred method of communication.

2.4 Behaviour

We will ensure your child remains safe and is treated with dignity and respect whilst in our care. Some children may rely on their behaviour to communicate their needs and emotions. We recognise that children may become upset, confused, and anxious at times and this may result in their behaviour becoming difficult. Staff will be encouraged to take time to get to know individual children and identify strategies that will encourage positive behaviour and to support your child at all times.

Children and young people benefit from a consistent approach from all staff and in all settings. We will work closely with you, psychology services, social workers, and schools to ensure any behavioural programmes or expectations that are implemented are continued within the overnight short break. The care plan will include risk assessments, any behavioural plans and recommendations or strategies used to reduce your child's behaviours and your child's keyworker will liaise with you regarding the plan. If your child has specific health or behavioural needs and staff require additional training this will be organised prior to your child's first stay. If we are unable to provide the training in-house, we will source it from an external provider. All staff take part in either team teach or secure care training which teaches staff de-escalation techniques.

If any incident occurs, then an incident form will be completed alongside a record of restraint if required. Any restraint will only be used if absolutely necessary to ensure the safety of the child or staff member.

We will agree the minimum standards of behaviour; where there is persistent challenging behaviours an individual approach to addressing the issue will be taken.

Positive behaviour will be encouraged in all settings and your child will be encouraged to behave appropriately and be respectful of others.

2.5 Restorative Measures

Any restorative measure imposed during your child's stay in Acorns will be discussed with you prior to your child attending. Staff are encouraged at all times to adopt positive behaviour strategies but will follow a plan that has restorative measure as part of the plan if these are used in other settings. This ensures a consistent approach to your child.

2.6 Safeguarding Children

Our priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of all children who use our service. The Rose Road Association has a full Safeguarding policy that all staff are aware of through training and expected to adhere to in practice. Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy.

Other policies linked to safety include our Mobile Phone and Camera Policy, Adult Safeguarding Policy, and Recording Policy. See also section 2.7 Missing Person Policy. All serious incidents are reported to Ofsted and our Commissioners.

2.7 Missing Children

Every care is taken to ensure your child will be safe and well cared for whilst staying at Rose Road. They will be appropriately supervised at all times whilst respecting their need for privacy.

If your child goes missing whilst in the care of Rose Road staff all appropriate steps will be taken to ensure the safe return of your child. The manager on duty will immediately notify yourself, police and the senior manager on call. Please refer to the Missing Person Policy.

Ofsted would be notified of this as it is a significant event. Following the incident an incident investigation will be conducted to identify the circumstances and any preventative measures to ensure there is not a re-occurrence. If following the investigation, the cause is identified as a result of negligent staff the disciplinary policy will be instigated.

2.8 Surveillance of Children

We use security codes on doors to prevent intruders and risk of absconding. We have external CCTV surveillance cameras on the outside of the building and within the car parks.

We have available surveillance monitors fixed in each bedroom which can be used to monitor activity at night including seizures, sleep patterns and any safety concerns that may occur overnight, these do not record and will be switched off per room if your child does not require this. If you feel your child may need this, please discuss with your keyworker as they need to obtain permission from your social worker. If these are used, we would ensure your child's dignity and privacy is respected at all times.

In line with Children Homes Regulations, there is a risk assessment undertaken regarding each child and the need for the cameras being in operation for each child. The parent/guardian will always need to give authorisation for this and will do so in form of signing the care plan. If there is no identified need for a child to use this then it is not activated during their stay.

We also have an external burglar alarm system. This is purely a safeguarding measure for the home.



2.9 Fire

During induction all staff are made aware of the procedures in the event of a fire. This includes knowing where fire exits and fire assembly points are. Regular fire awareness training is provided by an accredited fire training provider.

In the event of a fire breaking out during the hours the short break service is operational, evacuation procedure will be adopted, as set out in the Fire Evacuation Policy. The aim is to ensure a safe, speedy and secure evacuation from the area of the fire whilst ensuring that your child remains safe at all times.

If a fire occurs whilst your child is staying with us you will be informed of the event and advised on any action you need to take.

A fire drill is held at a minimum of 4 times a year. Times of the drills vary to ensure all staff are able to take part and various scenarios are tested.

2.10 Religion

We will ensure your child's religious and cultural beliefs are met during their stay. This will include specific dietary or other requirements necessary to meet any cultural or religious beliefs.

If your child requests attendance at a religious service during their stay we will endeavour to support this if practical and appropriate. Assistance to enable children to practice their religion will be given.



2.11 Contact with Parents

We recognise it may be an anxious time for you when your child stays at Rose Road and would encourage you to contact us at any time of the day or night to enquire on the well-being of your child.

You are able to visit your child at any time during their stay but would encourage you to phone beforehand to avoid a wasted journey if your child has gone out.

Your keyworker will be in regular contact with you to ensure your child's care plan is up to date and we are meeting your child's needs. We will inform you of any activities your child has done and share photographs of the events with you.

You have parent/family access to the one touch portal where you can observe daily notes to see how your child's/family members stay has gone, including, nutrition, activities, personal care.

We will ensure you are notified of any accident, incident or near miss that may have involved your child. Our priority will be to ensure the safety and well-being of your child at all times. Following an accident, incident or near miss an investigation will be carried out so we can identify the cause and look at prevention of a future occurrence.

Finally: if you have any queries at all we welcome contact and discussion with you. Do not hesitate to get in touch.

CEO/Nominated Individual – Steve Swift	02380 721 228	steveswift@roseroad.org.uk
Registered Manager – Tina Fullbrook	02380 721 238	tinafullbrook@roseroad.org.uk
Service Manager – Michaela Kavanagh	02380 721 239	michaelakavanagh@roseroad.org.uk
Service Manager – Sarah Reynolds	02380 721 260	sarahreynolds@roseroad.org.uk
Respite Managers	02380 721 219 / 218	oamanagers@roseroad.org.uk

