

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Service details

Early Childhood Service:	Tír na nÓg Naíonra & SAC
Relevant Person agus Bainisteoir	Eibhlín O'Donnell
DLP	Eibhlín O'Donnell
.Deputy DLP	Louise Keating
Our registered early childhood service provides the following services for children:	Naíonra and School Age Childcare Curricular activities are included in our ' Statement of Purpose '
The management structure is:	Private Sole Trader
Storage of records:	Password protected e-files and locked filing cabinet.
Access to records:	Eibhlín O'Donnell.

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm (brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children):

Our activities are play and learning based and are organised under the 4 learning themes of Aistear -Well-being, Identity and belonging, Communicating and Exploring and Thinking. (See our Statement of Purpose for curricular activities).

The management of **Tír na nÓg Naíonra & SAC** believe that the best interests of children and young people attending our service are paramount. We believe that all children attending our service have the right to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and to have their views taken into consideration in all decisions affecting them.

We believe the following principles to safeguard children:

1. Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.
2. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.
3. All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
4. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.
5. Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
6. Workers/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk of harm identified	Policies and Procedures in place to manage identified risk
1.	A member of staff or volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment and selection policy and procedures - Garda vetting, reference checks - Child Safeguarding Statement and staff guidelines (this document) - Governance policies and procedures - Induction process.
2.	A visitor to the service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accompaniment by staff at all times - Maintain a signed visitors book - By invitation only
3.	Failure of recognition of abuse, mismanagement of abuse or failure to report suspicions or allegations of abuse to Tusla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children First Child Protection training for all staff - Child Safeguarding Statement and staff guidelines (this document) - Risk Management policy - Staff Supervision policy - Ongoing access to continuing professional development, training records maintained. - Statutory obligation to report concerns cooperate with Tusla. - Appointing and maintaining a list of Mandated persons, Relevant person and Designated Liaison persons - Proportionate sharing of records with Tusla.
4.	Failure to record appropriate information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Safeguarding Statement and staff guidelines (this document) - Accident/incident logbook - Complaints policy and procedure - Good record keeping.
5.	Failure to supervise children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adherence to appropriate adult:child ratios for various age groups - Accident and Incident Policy - Safe management of activities.
6.	Bullying or cyber bullying of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Behaviour management policy - Complaints policy and procedure

		- The use of Internet and Photographic Recording Devices policy and procedures.
7.	The use of unauthorised photography	The use of Internet and Photographic Recording Devices policy and procedures, Staff code of behaviour, parental permission procedures.
8.	Social media/internet use	- The use of Internet and Photographic Recording Devices policy and procedures - Staff code of conduct and behaviour - Parental permission procedures.
9.	Covid-19 pandemic	- Infection control policy - Risk management policy - Covid procedures in place for children, staff, volunteers and parents.
10.	Harm to children on outings by a member of staff/volunteer/peer	- Outings policy and procedures - Appropriate adult:child ratios - Outdoor play policy and procedures - Risk management policy - Specific risk assessments carried out as required.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*, and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed and related policy documents are available upon request.

4. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

We maintain a list of mandated persons in our policy document attached and the relevant person is the Provider/Manager as below.

Signed: *Eibhlín O'Donnell* (Provider) AND Relevant Person

Eibhlín O'Donnell, Bainisteoir.

Tír na nÓg Naíonra & SAC
Gael Scoil na gCeithre Máistrí
Baile Dhún na nGall
Donegal
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0868536635

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For queries, please contact the Relevant Person named above as under the Children First Act 2015.

The statement is used in conjunction with our full guideline document for staff which includes procedures and policy signposting (attached).

-Ends-

Aibreán 2021.

