



Irish Girl Guides Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service being provided

Irish Girl Guides

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

The Irish Girl Guides (IGG) is a youth-driven, dynamic organisation offering a varied and exciting programme for girls and young women aged 5-30, and opportunities for women of all ages. It is a self-governing, uniformed youth organisation led by volunteers and supported by national and regional staff.

Membership is voluntary and open to all girls and women who live their lives as female and accept the Guide Promise and Law. As a girl-only movement, girls are free to develop and express themselves in a safe, comfortable, supported setting. Our members learn new skills, grow in self-confidence, develop teamwork and leadership skills, experience new activities, and build lifelong friendships.

IGG values its members and has a programme aimed at the development of girls and young women in which all aspects of unsociable behaviour including bullying, harassment and abuse are unacceptable. Our Leaders are trained to implement our programme in which the needs of the girl are a priority.

IGG recognises that the welfare of our members is of paramount importance and has policies and procedures in place to safeguard the children in our care.

3. Risk Assessment

The Children First Act 2015 requires organisations that are providers of relevant services to carry out an assessment of possible risk of harm to a child while availing of our service and to specify the procedures in place to manage these if they were to occur. Harm in this context is in relation to assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child.

In line with this IGG has completed the required assessment and below is a list of possible risks identified and the procedures, policies and guidelines in place for managing these.

Possible Risk	Procedures/Policies in place
Risk of harm to a child availing of our service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment & Selection Procedures ▪ Screening process including Garda Vetting ▪ Safeguarding Policies & Procedures ▪ Safeguarding & Child Protection Training ▪ Reporting Procedures ▪ Designated Liaison Person
Risk of harm to a child at residential event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Screening process including Garda Vetting ▪ Safeguarding Policies & Procedures ▪ Safeguarding & Child Protection Training ▪ Rules regarding Residential events ▪ Good Practice Procedures ▪ Conduct Guidelines Agreement Form
Risk of harm to a child online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social Media Procedures ▪ Guidelines on use of images of members ▪ Virtual Meeting Guidelines ▪ IGG Internet Guidelines for Girls
Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding Policies & Procedures ▪ Safeguarding & Child Protection Training ▪ Conduct Guidelines Agreement Form ▪ Anti-bullying procedures ▪ Disciplinary Procedures

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4. Procedures

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 or suspected incidents of abuse or misconduct against volunteers/staff of a child availing of our service
- Procedure for responding to suspected child abuse or disclosure of abuse from a child
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for suspension and withdrawal of volunteers/staff where necessary
- Procedure for provision of and access to child protection training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for the safe recruitment/selection and screening of volunteers/staff working with children
- Procedures for dealing with suspected bullying/incidents of bullying are reported
- Procedure for suspension of and, if necessary, termination of a child's membership
- Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons within the organisation
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. 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 6 June 2022 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:

**Safeguarding Officer on behalf of IGG
Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015**

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