

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service being provided:

The Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association in the Republic of Ireland

2. Nature of Service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

The Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association, as a Christian Youth Organisation is committed to providing a safe environment in which children can develop socially, emotionally, spiritually and form positive relationships.

We provide the following activities to children:

- Spiritual, Physical, Adventure, Community and Interest activities at company level
- Church services at Company and District level
- Outings, holidays and trips away at company and Regional level
- Inter-company competitions and events
- Training events at district and company level

We believe that:

- Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child who attends our organisation is paramount.
- Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children reflect national policy and legislation laid out in the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection 2017 and Welfare of Children and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice 2018.
- Our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures should be reviewed every two years or sooner if necessary due to organisational issues or changes in legislation or national policy.
- All children and young people have an equal right to attend an organisation that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child who attends our organisation, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.
- Our guiding principles apply to everyone in the organisation including management committee members, employees and leaders.
- Employees and leaders must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.
- We are committed to ensuring people's rights to confidentiality.

3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below are a list of the areas of risks identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1	Risk of child being harmed in BB by another child	Code of behaviour for children, disciplinary procedures, supervision procedures and programme planning
2	Risk of child being harmed in BB by a leader	Recruitment procedures, training of leaders, code of behaviour for leaders, disciplinary procedures, complaints policy
3	Risk of child being harmed in BB by a visitor to the activity, or a person on the same premises, or by other person whilst on activities outside of normal premises.	Supervision procedures, Interagency working, Programme Planning, Risk Assessment

4	Risk of harm due to bullying of child	Anti-Bullying policy, Code of behaviour for children, disciplinary procedures
5	Risk of harm not being recognised by leaders	Provision of Child Safeguarding Policy to all leaders, recognising abuse procedures, Child Safeguarding training strategy
6	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by leaders	Provision of Child Safeguarding Policy to all leaders, reporting procedures, Child Safeguarding training strategy
7	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children at BB activities	Supervision policy, Risk Assessment, Programme Planning
8	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	Codes of Behaviour, Disciplinary Procedures, Child Safeguarding Training strategy
9	Risk of harm due to inadequate planning of activities, trips and outings	Safety Practice, Programme Planning, Risk Assessment
10	Risk of harm from online activities	Code of Behaviour for leaders, Code of Behaviour for Children, Disciplinary procedures, Technology policy, Child Safeguarding training strategy, Leadership training, Programme Planning, Supervision procedures
11	Risk of harm to children with special needs who have particular vulnerabilities	Training of leaders, Parental Consent forms, Children with special needs procedures.

4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, 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:

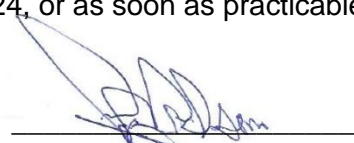
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service
- Procedures for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training 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 are available on request.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing 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 in March 2024, or as soon as practicable after there has been any material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



 On behalf of the Management Committee

The Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association in the Republic of Ireland, Unit C1 Nutgrove Office Park, Nutgrove Avenue, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14

For queries, please contact: Olive Good 087 2451310 (Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015)