



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

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

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Inappropriate actions by grassroots volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide up to date Child Protection / Code of Ethics trainings and publications • Follow Child Protection Policy / assign Reporting Officer • Procedures for reporting child abuse
2	Inappropriate actions by staff / key volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide up to date Child Protection / Code of Ethics trainings and publications • Follow Child Protection Policy / assign Reporting Officer • Procedures for reporting child abuse
3	Members not abiding by rules & procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to date Child Protection / Code of Ethics trainings and ongoing support provided • Agreement form required for screening process • Disciplinary procedures in place
4	Leaders not being deemed "as suitable"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures for safe recruitment / selection • Screening process – Vetting / reference checks • Procedures for negative disclosures • Safeguarding Membership Ad-hoc Group
5	Untrained Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training required to be recognised IGG Leader • Attendance at Child Protection / Code of Ethics trainings recorded • Online Child Protection / Code of Ethics training provided for under 18's assisting in a Leadership capacity

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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 in 27 January 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  (Provider)
Chief Commissioner on behalf of IGG

Irish Girl Guides
Trefoil House
27 Pembroke Park
Dublin 4
01-6683898

For queries, please contact: Lisa Challoner, Safeguarding Membership Officer, Irish Girl Guides, 01-6683898 or email safeguarding@irishgirlguides.ie, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.