

Children and Young Person Safeguarding Statement

The Irish Heart Foundation is located at 17-19 Rathmines Road Lower, Dublin 6 and operate a hybrid system with staff working from home for a number of days during the week. Some staff may work in schools and communities from time to time.

Services Provided:

The Irish Heart Foundation works with children and young people up to the age of 18 years from across Ireland. The Foundation's strategic priority of tackling health inequalities and as such can work with vulnerable children and young people. A dedicated team works closely with children and young people in a school setting and follows the Irish Heart Foundations guidelines when working in school's policy and also the individual's schools' policies. Staff working in this area are experienced children and young people health promotion practitioners and work in teams rather than individually.

Our work in the area of children and young people

The Irish Heart Foundation works directly with children and their families in the following :

- Through our school programmes in a school setting, the dedicated Children and Young People Team (CYP) work directly with children and young people in schools. Our programmes focus on the area of health and wellbeing including but not limited to consultations, co-design workshops, interview panels, meetings, CPR programmes, health promotion programmes.
- Online meetings and focus groups.
- Youth Advisory Panel, the CYP team work directly with young people in a group setting where young people advise the Foundation on matters relating to health and wellbeing that affect children.
- Our Family Weekends at family camp.
- Work experience programme at Transition Year (4th year)
- Fundraising events with their schools for flag ship days
- The Irish Heart Foundation works directly with children and young people up to the 18 years.

Principles of Promoting the Welfare of Young People and Safeguarding them from Harm

- Irish Heart Foundation is committed to promoting best practice within our organisation and to the protection of the young people with whom we work.
- Irish Heart Foundation is committed to promoting the rights of the young people including the participation of young people in making decisions on matters that affect them.
- Irish Heart Foundation is committed to adherence to *Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017) and the Children First Act 2015.

Risk assessment

The Irish Heart Foundation has 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.

Risk Identified	Procedure in Place to Manage Identified Risk
Risk of harm not being recognised and / or not being dealt with appropriately by staff, contractors, or volunteers with the Irish Heart Foundation (IHF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child welfare policies and procedures implemented and up to date. • Online training in Child Welfare for all staff and volunteers. • Code of conduct for staff and volunteers. • Clearly documented reporting mechanism. • Appointment, training and clear identification of Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person.
Risk of harm due to insufficient supervision and ability to act in case of emergency due to insufficient number of adult staff and volunteers present at events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:1 adult to child ratio at all times. That is an adult should never be left alone with a child, there should always be two adults. • A residential staff ratio for the first five people of 2 adults. For each extra ten people (or part thereof), one extra adult.
Risk of harm from staff and/or volunteers towards young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure for recruitment, Garda vetting and referencing of staff and volunteers. • Supervision, training and support of staff and volunteers. • Internet, photography and social media child protection and safeguarding guidelines.
Risk of harm from third parties in accommodation and other facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff should make themselves aware of potential risks, monitor those risks and act accordingly. • Third party policy. • Event Risk Assessment
Failure to engage appropriately trained staff and / or volunteers due to fear of child protection legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be clear about the level of responsibility required of staff and volunteers and support them and facilitate their training. • All staff must liaise with the Children and Young People Manager before engaging in activity involving children and young people and complete a risk assessment.
Risk of bullying between young people and staff's lack of knowledge on how to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-bullying policy.

manage bullying.	
Lack of knowledge of staff in how to respond to a critical incident: Assault (fight), sexual assault, serious accident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and volunteers are trained appropriately in child welfare.
Lack of knowledge of staff in how to respond to underage sex.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to guidelines on underage sex provided by Tusla.
<p>Risk of staff drinking while acting in a supervisory capacity.</p> <p>Risk of young people accessing alcohol while participating in services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and volunteers on duty never drink. • Clear boundaries for young people. • Code of conduct, sanctions and rules for participants.
<p>Risk of staff taking drugs during their role in the Irish Heart Foundation.</p> <p>Risk of young people accessing drugs while participating in services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No drugs other than prescription drugs or over the counter remedies are to be taken or be in the possession of young people/staff or volunteers.
Inappropriate use of social media and mobile phones by young people while participating in services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt policies on communications and use of social media as per Child Protection & welfare Policy.
Inappropriate communication with or communications by inappropriate channels between staff, volunteers and participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt policies on communications and use of social media as per Child Protection & welfare Policy.
Risk of staff using data / personal information of young people inappropriately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt policies on communications and use of social media as per Child Protection & welfare Policy.

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 and are available upon request:

- The appointment of responsible persons;
- Maintaining a list of mandated persons;
- Recruiting, managing and training staff and volunteers;
- Codes of behaviour for staff, volunteers and young people;
- Dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers;
- Reporting procedures for child protection concerns;
- Anti-bullying;
- Confidentiality;
- Involvement of primary carers;
- Accidents
- Complaints and comments
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.

For contact and queries email info@irishheart.ie

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 on the 31st December 2024 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.



28th February 2024

Signed

Date

Emma Balmaine (CEO) on behalf of the Irish Heart Foundation
Relevant Person under the Children First Act (2015)

Tracy James, Health Check Nurse Manager
Designated Liaison Person

Katherine Scott, Schools Engagement Officer
Deputy Designated Liaison Person