

Child Safeguarding Statement - Coláiste na bhFiann & Cumann na bhFiann

- 1. Name of service being provided** Coláiste na bhFiann & Cumann na bhFiann
- 2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm** Coláiste na bhFiann provides residential summer courses for young people aged 10-18. These courses are run in houses in Gaeltacht areas and in a residential college, Ionad Óige na hÉireann, Co. Meath. The courses are run completely through the medium of Irish. Cumann na bhFiann provides a network of youth clubs and overnight tours to young people on a national basis giving them the opportunity to use and improve their spoken Irish in an informal setting. Our organisation believes that the best interests of young people attending our services are paramount. We believe that all children attending our service, regardless of race, ability, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, have the right to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and to have their views taken into consideration in all decisions affecting them. Our guiding principles are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and current legislation such as the Children First Act 2015, Child Care Act 1991, Protections of Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 and the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012.

- 3. Risk assessment** Coláiste na bhFiann and Cumann na bhFiann have completed an assessment of any potential for harm to young people while they are availing of our services and maintains a risk register in relation to this. This register identifies all risks of harm as detailed in the Children First Act 2015 (a) 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 (b) sexual abuse of the child, and lists the procedures, policies, programmes and practices that help reduce or eliminate these risks.

Procedures in place relating to reducing or eliminating specific risks

Risk of harm from a member of staff - Code of Conduct - Board, Staff & Volunteers, Staff & Volunteer training, Recruitment policy & procedures

Risk of harm from peers - Code of conduct for staff & young people, Induction information sessions with young people & their parents

Risk of harm from member of the public - Risk assessment of venues, events & trips, Code of conduct for staff & young people

Risk of harm to a child from lack of supervision - Child Protection Policy, Code of Conduct - Board, Staff & Volunteers, Staff & Volunteer training

Risk of neglect - Health & Safety Policy, Staff & Volunteer training, Recruitment policy & procedures

Risk of emotional abuse/ill treatment - Complaints Policy & Procedures, Anti-bullying policy

Risk of physical abuse - Risk assessment of venues, events & trips, Code of conduct for staff & young people

Risk of sexual abuse - Child Protection Policy, Recruitment policy & procedures

Risk of online abuse - Online safety & social media policy, Anti-bullying policy

- 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 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 as DLP

All procedures listed are available upon request.

- 5. Implementation** Coláiste na bhFiann and Cumann na bhFiann 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 young people safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed	Michelle Ní Ghialláin	Date	22/05/2023
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