



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. In our organisation, we believe that the most important thing of all is to properly serve the young people under our care. We believe that all children who benefit from our services have the following rights: right to protection; right to respect; right to be heard; the right to have their opinions included in the decisions made that affect them. The aforementioned rights apply regardless of race, ability, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Our practices are in line with what is set out in the following policies: Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children; Tusla Child Protection: A Guide to 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 for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act, 1998; The National Bureau of Investigation Act 2012.
- 3. Risk assessment** Coláiste na Fiann & Cumann na bhFiann have assessed any potential for harm to young people when using our services. A risk register is maintained accordingly. That register identifies all risks of harm as detailed in the Children First Act 2015 (a) assaulting a child, abusing a child or neglecting a child in a way that seriously affects, or is likely to seriously affect harm to the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child. The program also lists the procedures, policies, programs and practices that help to reduce risks or eliminate them altogether.

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 a 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 Protection statement has been developed in accordance with the Requirements under the Children First Act 2015; Children First: A National Guide and Tusla Child Protection: A Guide to Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment the following procedures contribute to our intention to protect children while they are using our services:

- Procedure for dealing with allegations against one of our employees about the abuse of a child in our care
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers to work with children
- Procedure in relation to training and information about child protection, the identification of harm included
- Procedure for reporting to Tusla any concern relating to the protection or welfare of a child
- Procedure for keeping a list of persons (if any) who have been officially mandated in the relevant service
- Procedure in relation to appointing an appropriate person as DCA

All procedures listed are available on request

5. Implementation Coláiste na Fiann and Cumann na Fiann understand that implementation is an ongoing process. In the service we provide we are committed to implementing this statement - The Child Protection Statement. The Child Protection Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable following a material change relating to anything referred to in the statement.

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