

The Girls' Brigade Ireland - Child Safeguarding Statement

1. **Name of service being provided:** The Girls' Brigade Ireland

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

The Girls' Brigade Ireland is a voluntary Christian Uniformed Youth Organisation which provides a wide and varied programme at company, district and National level, based around its four pillars of spiritual, physical, educational and service, to girls and young women aged 3 years upwards and provides leadership opportunities to women of all ages.

All children have an equal right to become members of the Girls' Brigade Ireland and we are committed to respect all members as individuals and encourage them to reach their potential, regardless of their background. Our members learn new skills, grow in self-confidence, develop teamwork and leadership skills, experience new activities and build lifelong friendships.

The Girls' Brigade values its members and has a programme aimed at the development of girls and young women in which all forms of abuse, bullying and harassment are unacceptable. 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.

The Girls' Brigade Ireland's priority is to ensure that the welfare and safety of every child who attends our organisation is paramount and to this end our Child Safeguarding Policy applies to everyone in our organisation and shall be reviewed every two years or sooner if necessary due to organisational issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

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 the areas of risks identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1	Inappropriate actions by leaders and staff in relation to concerns about a child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Child Safeguarding Policy to all leaders and staff • Child Safeguarding Training Strategy • Reporting Procedures
2	Inappropriate actions by leaders and staff during activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of behaviour for leaders • Safety practices • Programme planning • Child Safeguarding Training strategy • Complaints policy • Disciplinary procedures • Implementation plan
3	Members not abiding by rules and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of behaviour for members • Disciplinary procedures • Programme planning • Anti-bullying policy and programme • Complaints policy
4	Inexperienced or unsuitable leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment procedures • Supervision, support and training of leaders • Leadership training • Provision of Child Safeguarding Policy to all new leaders • Child Safeguarding Training Strategy

5	Inappropriate actions by visitors to activities or other users of premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision procedures • Safety practices • Interagency procedures
6	On-line activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of behaviour for leaders • Supervision procedures • Code of behaviour for members • Technology policy (including video conferencing guidelines) • Reporting procedures • Programme planning

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 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 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 June 2022, or as soon as practicable after there has been any material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Chairperson of the National Board

on behalf of The Girls' Brigade Ireland, 2 Tritonville Avenue, Sandymount, Dublin 4

For queries, please contact:

Olive Good (087 2451310) or

Jemma Lee (087 1824440)

- Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015