



Museum of Childhood Ireland

Músaem Óige na hÉireann

Child Safeguarding Statement Version Control	
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1. Museum Information

The Museum of Childhood of Ireland is an initiative designed to deliver a world-class facility exploring and engaging the themes of childhood in Ireland and internationally.

The Museum of Childhood Ireland (MoCI) aims to establish a museum that will promote the widest understanding of our distinctive culture, history, stories and place in the world, from the perspective of children and childhood, growing up on the island of Ireland, and amongst the diaspora.

2. Principles to Safeguard Children

The Museum of Childhood Ireland is committed to offering a child centred approach to our work with Children and ensuring that we offer a safe and inclusive environment for all children who engage with our services.

We believe the following:

- A. Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.
- B. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.
- C. All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.



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- D. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.
- E. Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
- F. Workers/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

Our guiding principles apply to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All committee/board members, staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by these guiding principles and our child safeguarding procedures.

3. Risk Assessment

Section 11(1)(a) of the Children First Act 2015 defines risk as “any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service.” Section 2 of the Children First Act 2015 defines harm as follows:

“harm means in relation to a child –

- 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, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances or otherwise.”

In line with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, the Board have carried out an assessment of any potential harm to a child. These risks and associated mitigation measures are detailed below.

Risk Identified	Procedure in Place to Mitigate Risk
One to One Child Contact	❖ Museum programmes will always have more than one adult being present or at least in sight of hearing and others. A minimum of two adults should be present at all times. No unsupervised access of young people with other adults.



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Photography/Use of images of children	❖ Written permission is sought in advance from Parents and or schools for use of children's images in publications
Access to Children	❖ All staff/Board members/volunteers who work with Children are Garda Vetted
Exposure to age inappropriate exhibitions	❖ Verbal and written notices will be available prior to entry to said exhibitions
Child Safety for online events and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Online consent/permission forms signed by parent/guardian required in advance of child participating in online events ❖ It must be clearly stated if the event is going to be recorded. Best practice and the Museum's approach is to organise events in such a way that limits the recording of children. Detail of plans to make the recording available following the event must be declared. Parents / guardians must consent to recording of an online event in advance.
Recording and sharing information	❖ All records relating to child safeguarding concerns will be held securely and shared only with relevant individuals on a need to know basis
Partnerships	❖ Child safeguarding will be considered as part of a decision to partner or collaborate with other organisations
Visibility & Awareness	❖ Museum to appoint a Designated Liaison Person who will be a dedicated point of contact in relation to Child Protection concerns.

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, Procedures 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:

- A. Incident Management Procedure
- B. Reporting Procedure
- C. Lost Child Procedure (to be refined for Museum site)



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D. Procedure for appointing Named Person

All procedures above are available on request.

5. Implementation

This Statement demonstrates the importance we place on keeping children and young people who we interact or avail of our services with safe from harm. We recognise that implementation of this statement is an on-going process. We will review this statement in May 2023 or sooner if there is a material need. It is recognised that the acquisition of a permanent home for the Museum will merit a review of this statement and risk assessment.



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Supporting Procedures – 16/05/2021

A. Incident Management Procedure

A staff member who has a child protection concern, based on observation, a disclosure or a third party allegation, should document that concern and report the concern to the Designated Liaison Person without delay

- ❖ date and time concern was raised
- ❖ date and time of alleged incident
- ❖ Note person/people involved in concern/disclosure
- ❖ If the concern relates to disclosure note the exact words used in the disclosure
- ❖ Any information and opinions recorded should be based in fact

B. Reporting Procedure

The Museum's reporting procedures are aligned with the Tusla guidance in this area.

The Museum will always inform Tusla if they have reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been, is being, or is at risk of being abused or neglected. The Museum will do this through the Designated Liaison Person submitting a report on the Tusla website.

Please note that in an emergency situation, where the Museum believes the child is at risk of immediate harm, the Museum will contact Tusla without delay before making a written report. Under no circumstances should a child be left in a situation that exposes them to harm or risk of harm, while waiting for Tusla to intervene. If we think the child is in immediate danger and we cannot contact Tusla, we will contact An Garda Síochána.

C. Lost Child Procedure (to be refined for Museum site)

If a child is lost/left unattended:

- ❖ Approach the child
- ❖ Speak calmly to them and explain who you are
- ❖ Lead (but do not touch) the child to the main desk
- ❖ The main desk will communicate across the site in order to locate the parent/carer



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D. Procedure for formally appointing Named Person/Designated Liaison Person

- ❖ The Board of the Museum will discuss and decide on the appointment of a Designated Liaison Person.
- ❖ This person's role is to be a resource for any staff member or volunteer who has a child protection or welfare concern. The Designated Liaison Person should be well-informed about child protection and have received all the necessary training for the role.
- ❖ They will help any person in their organisation who is considering making a report to Tusla and will liaise with outside agencies.