

Columbus Club

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service being provided:

Columbus Club is a Club providing Easter and Summer Camps to students from the ages of three to twelve years of age and for second-level students from First Year to Sixth Year.

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

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tulsa Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, Management of Columbus Club has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. The Manager has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of the overall Child Safeguarding Statement
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Anne Ruane
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Holly Keogh
4. The Manager recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of club life and must be reflected in all of the Club's policies, procedures, practices, and activities. The Club will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

Columbus Club will:

- Recognize that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The Club will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

3. Risk Assessment:

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Risk of harm by child being harmed by a member of staff/volunteer	Child Safeguarding Statement circulated to staff. Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary schools 2017 made available. Adherence to Garda Vetting Legislation. First Aid procedures. Health and Safety Statement. Code of Conduct Staff/Students.
2	Risk of harm of a child of online abuse through social media	ICT and social Media Policy in place. Dignity and Respect Policy in place.
3	Risk of harm of a child or risk of bullying through the use of unauthorised photography	Child Safeguarding Statement. ICT and Social Media Policy in place. Dignity and Respect Policy (incorporating anti-bullying and harassment).
4	Risk of harm of bullying of a child by a member of staff volunteer/peer	Child Safeguarding Statement circulated. Teachers Regulations, Disciplinary procedures adhered to.

		Dignity and Respect Policy incorporating Anti-Bullying Procedure
5	Risk of child been harmed by another child, risk of child being harmed by another adult, risk of harm not being recognised by school staff.	Child Safeguarding Statement circulated to all staff. Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 made available, adherence to Garda Vetting Legislation, First Aid Procedures, Health & Safety Statement, Code of Conduct Staff/Students. Dignity and Respect Policy.
6	Risk of harm of a child from a visitor to the service	Child Safeguarding Statement. The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017. First Aid Procedures, Health & Safety Statement. Visitor Policy in place

4. Procedures:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Children First, National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), 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:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the Club, the Club adheres to the relevant procedures in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for Club staff which are published on the DES website, a copy of which may be found in the Manager's office.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the Club adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the DES and available on the DES website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the Club
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the Club's Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the Club's Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training.
 - Encourages management to avail of relevant training
 - The Manager maintains records of all staff and Management member training.
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all Club personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In Columbus Club, the Manager has appointed the above named DLP (Anne Ruane) as the "relevant person" as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the club's child safeguarding statement.

- All teachers registered with the Teaching Council and employed by the Club are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. Implementation:

We recognise that implementation is an on-going 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 our service.

This statement and the associated risk assessment has been provided to all members of the Club's staff. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Signed: *Anne Ruane* Columbus Club
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For queries, please contact Anne Ruane, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.