



Child Safeguarding Statement: Exodus Ministries

1. Name of services being provided:

Opportunities for youth programmes to fulfil the charitable purpose of the advancement of religion;

- Participant monthly programme for Bible learning and fellowship
 - Summer missions - including 6-month study course
 - Drop Ins
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2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm *(brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children):*

Nature of service-Throughout each of the above opportunities, there will be Bible engagement, worship, fun games and informal conversations.

Principles of safeguarding-

1) Adopting and maintaining a Safeguarding Policy - We recognise that safeguarding is a shared responsibility that we each play a role in. This policy will seek to ensure that Exodus provides a safe environment for every child or young person we connect with and serve, alongside effective procedures for dealing with any concerns or disclosures should they arise.

2) Promoting excellence in safeguarding practice and environments - We will clearly communicate good safeguarding practice with young people, parents, volunteers, trustees and staff and set a culture where individuals are valued and cared for.

3) Recruiting well -We will be rigorous in the safe recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers through appropriate job descriptions, applications, referencing, interviews, criminal record checks and probationary periods.

4) Providing appropriate training - We will ensure that staff and volunteers receive adequate and appropriate training for their role.

5) Providing effective oversight and support to deliver on expectations - We will maintain structures of supervision and accountability for safeguarding from board level through to staff and volunteer management.

6) Giving clear procedures for recognising and dealing with concerns - We will ensure that everyone working with young people in a supervisory role knows how to recognise different forms of abuse and is clear on our expectations for dealing with incidents, concerns and disclosures including: responding, recording, reporting, involving statutory agencies and following up.

Policy Basis:

This policy builds on and incorporates legislation, government expectations and other best practice guides for safeguarding including:

- National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2012/act/47/enacted/en/html>
 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/unicef-convention-rights-child-uncrc.pdf>
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3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services and have processes for escalating any issues that arise.

4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the policies listed above. In addition, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services:

- 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.

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 of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on **1st July 2028** (every 24 months), or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

For queries, please contact Helen McKay, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

Child Safeguarding Statement Sample Template

Section 2: Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm: Describe the nature of your services and specify the principles that you will observe to keep children safe from harm while they are availing of your service.

Section 3: Risk assessment: *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017) provides additional guidance on carrying out the risk assessment component of your Child Safeguarding Statement.

Section 4: Procedures: As this is only a sample list, you will need to add to this list as appropriate, based on the outcome of your risk assessment. Please see also Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*.

Section 5: Implementation: At a minimum, reviews must be carried out every 24 months. The provider is the individual with overall responsibility for the organisation. This may be the chief executive officer, chairperson of a board of management, owner/operator, etc.

Relevant Person: You should include the name and contact details of the Relevant Persons, who are the first point of contact regarding your Child Safeguarding Statement.