



Child Safeguarding Statement

Our approach to ensuring that, as far as practicable, the children in our care are safe from harm.

Introduction

The foundation of Christ City Church's approach to all people is rooted in the biblical affirmation that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. (Genesis 1:26ff)

As part of our church activities, we provide supervised activities and events specifically for children, which are designed to be fun, stimulating and promote friendships amongst the young people. It is also intended to be a 'safe space' in which they can explore the Christian faith should they so desire. Our activities and events are open to all children, regardless of background.

Children and young people are a vital part of the church community, and we seek to ensure that they are loved and afforded equal respect.

Safeguarding the welfare of the children with whom we come into contact is the responsibility of the *whole church community*. Anyone who has a concern about a child is encouraged to speak to our designated Safeguarding Coordinator(s), and they may do so at any time.

Our Service

Our primary services are 'The Treehouse' and 'The Den', age-grade Bible-based activities which take place during a Sunday worship service. During this time, the children will be supervised by designated 'Children's Workers' whilst their parents/carers remain in the main service. From time to time, other trips, activities or residential weekends may be organised by the church.

We currently meet at Synge Street CBS, 67-71 Heytesbury Street, Dublin 8, D08 R283; the service starts at 4:30pm and our entrance is via the school car park on Synge Street.

Children First

In 2017, the Department for Children and Youth Affairs released a revised version of *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, and it is this guidance upon which our child protection and welfare policies and practices are based. It states:

Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.

At Christ City Church, we commit to upholding this right, along with that of the parents and/or carers to be respected and consulted in all matters that involve their children. We also commit to being in full compliance with *Children First* and any applicable legislation.

One of our primary objectives is to, as far as practicable, ensure that the children in our care are safe from harm. The *Children First Act (2015)* defines this as:

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'.

Risk Assessment

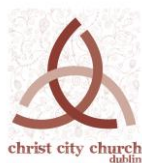
We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks:

Risk Identified	Procedure(s) in place to manage risk identified
Failure to recognise the abuse, neglect or severe bullying of a child within the general church community and/or those participating in our activities, or report any such suspicions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance and procedures laid out in 'Recognising, Reporting and Responding (Children) Selection and training of staff and/or volunteers (not limited to Children's Workers, but including those involved in pastoral care and other identified ministries) as per 'Safer Recruiting' and our 'Garda Vetting Policy'
Failure to recognise the potential for abuse or neglect to children as a result of a disclosure by an adult, or report any such suspicions, as may be revealed during counselling, pastoral care work or other such ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance and procedures laid out in 'Recognising, Reporting and Responding (Children) Training of staff and/or volunteers (including those involved in pastoral care and other ministerial work) as per 'Safer Recruiting'
Abuse of a child attending the provided activities, or by those in a position of trust or authority, as a result of inappropriate selection of staff or volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of staff and/or volunteers as per 'Safer Recruiting' and our 'Garda Vetting Policy'
Abuse, neglect, bullying or other harm of a child attending the provided services as a result of improper supervision or conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of staff and/or volunteers (including those involved in pastoral care) as per 'Safer Recruiting' Guidance and procedures laid out in 'Recognising, Reporting and Responding (Children) Awareness and adherence to our published 'Guidance for Children's Workers' Awareness and adherence to our published 'Complaints Procedure'
Inappropriate or unauthorised use of the image or identifiable likeness of a child by staff or volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff and/or volunteers to abide by our 'Photographs, Video and Social Media' policy

Policies

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the *Children First Act 2015*, *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 services and are available on request or via our website:

- 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



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 on 11th December 2019, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed on behalf of Christ City Church, Dublin:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen Sharpe".

Stephen Sharpe

Safeguarding Coordinator/Designated Liaison Person

Document History

Version	Author(s)	Date Revised	Comments/Changes
1.0	Caroline Anderson	22/09/2015	Original document
2.0	Stephen Sharpe Leanne Vaughan (Reviewer)	18/07/2017	Major redraft
3.0	Stephen Sharpe Leanne Vaughan (Reviewer)	21/10/2017	<p>Changed title to Child Safeguarding Statement Reviewed in line with published guidance from Tusla with respect to the statutory requirement to create and publish this statement.</p> <p>http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_v3.pdf</p>