



Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School of Traditional Irish Music, Song, Dance & Gaeilge

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. Name of service being provided:

The Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School provides the following services to children and young people:

- Educational, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social and physical activities in the areas of traditional Irish Music, Song, Dance and Gaeilge.
- The provision of tutoring and teaching services, a necessary and regular part of which consists, mainly, of the tutors having access to and contact with children.

2. Nature of service and principals to safeguard children from harm

We believe that:

- Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.
- 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. The Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School adheres to the recommendations of Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, Department of Children and Youth Affairs; the Child Protection and Welfare Practice Handbook (2011), HSE and Our Duty of Care; Principals of Good Practice for the Protection of Children and Young People (2002) HSE, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and current legislation such as the Children First Act 2015, Child Care Act 1991, Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 and the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012.
- 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.
- 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.
- Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
- Staff/volunteers/tutors must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

Named Person (to develop guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures): Michelle Jordan

Relevant Person: Michelle Jordan

Contact details: 087 7427065

Designated Liaison Person: Michelle Jordan

Contact details: 087 7427065

Deputy Designated Liaison Person: Sheila Hunt

Contact Details: 086 8390684

3. Risk Assessment

In undertaking this risk assessment, The Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School has endeavoured to identify as far as possible, the risks of harm that are relevant to our school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified.

While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk.

In accordance with section 2 of the Children First Act, 2015 the defined threshold of “harm” in relation to a child is 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;”

List of Activities	Risk Level	Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School has identified the following Risk of Harm	Seosamh Mac Gabhann has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Staff, Volunteer and Tutor training	Low	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported properly by school staff/volunteer/tutor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School Child Safeguarding Statement is available to all members of staff, volunteers and tutors and is displayed on the premises and is available on the website. • All tutors are Garda Vetting. • DLP and DDLP have carried out Child Protection Training.
Supervision	Low	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another adult. Risk of harm from unknown adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are supervised at the breaks/lunch by staff and volunteers. • Incident book in operation. • Tutors located in buildings independent of the Community Centre must accompany their pupils to and from these locations.
Attendance	Low	Risk of child going missing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutors keep an attendance record.
Teaching/Tutoring	Low	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school staff/volunteer/tutor. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School Child Safeguarding Statement is available to all members of staff, volunteers and tutors and is displayed on the premises and is available on the website. • All tutors are Garda Vetted. • Tutors will supervise the children in their care during class time. • Code of Behaviour

Care of Children with special needs/health conditions.	Low	Risk of harm by school staff/volunteer/tutor due to children with SEN/health conditions who may have particular vulnerabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/Guardians are asked to inform school personal about special needs/health conditions at registration.
Prevention and dealing with school based bullying amongst pupils	Low	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of a culture of openness and respect in which students can approach staff to discuss concerns and worries. Adequate supervision is provided to ensure Code of Behaviour is being followed. Code of Behaviour
Partaking in/attending evening events	Low	<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school staff/volunteer/tutor, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in/attending event.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending event.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School is not responsible for supervising children at evening events.
Administration of First Aid	Low	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff/volunteers/tutors will exercise their duty of care to pupils for the duration of the school day. Minor accidents/injuries will be treated by the relevant staff/volunteer/tutor in the presence/view of other pupil(s)/staff member(s). First Aid Boxes are available and will be made known to staff, volunteers and tutors. Incident book in operation. Serious accidents must be reported to the Named Person.(Michelle Jordan)
Administration of Medicine	Medium	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/Guardians are asked to inform school personal about health conditions at registration. Members of staff may administer medication to pupils only in cases agreed by the Parent and Named Person. (Michelle Jordan)
Storage or publication of photos of children	Low	Risk of pupil images being accessed and used inappropriately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parental consent to take photos of children is obtained by the school at registration. Official Photographers are made aware of any classes where photographs may not be taken. Photos are stored securely on password protected laptops
Data Protection	Low	Risk of personnel information regarding pupils being accessed and used inappropriately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following best practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidential documents relating to children in the school are stored securely. Hard copies are stored in locked filing cabinets. Soft copies are stored on password protected laptops. Documents are shared with staff/tutors on a need to know basis.

Use of mobile phones	Low	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using social media, phones and other devices while at the summer school.</p> <p>Bullying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are allowed to use mobile phones for recording purposes. • Pupils must receive permission before taking photographs of other pupils and before uploading photographs to any form of social media. • The use of mobile phones to publish hurtful or bullying images/messages on social media will be dealt with according to the Code of Behaviour.
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4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the requirements of 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 services:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff/volunteers/tutors of a child availing of our services. (Section 3.2 of Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice)
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff/volunteers/tutors to work with children. (Section 4.1 of Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice).
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm. (Section 4.2 of Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice).
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla. (Section 3.1 of Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice).
- Procedure for maintaining a list of persons (if any) in the relevant service who are Mandated Persons. (Section 2.3 of Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice).
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person. (Section 2.4 of Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice).

5. Implementation:

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. The Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in April 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____

For queries, please contact Michelle Jordan, Designated Liaison Person under the Children First Act 2015.