



1. Child Safeguarding Statement

Ógras is an Irish Language youth work organisation which provides services to those between the ages of 7-19 years on a national basis . Services include Youth Clubs, Summer Camps, Training Courses as well as hosting national and international events in various locations throughout Ireland. Ógras aims to provide a safe space where young people can fully participate in a youth work programme that is lively, varied and well organised and that inspires creative thinking, self-confidence, social development and language development.

Ógras currently has five staff members – three of which are based in the Leinster region - the National Director; a Clerical Officer; a Club Development Officer based in Dublin with responsibility for Ulster and Leinster. The other two staff members are – Munster Club Development Officer based in Kerry with responsibility for the whole of Munster and a part-time club development officer based in Conamara with responsibility for Connaught.

Ógras objective is to:

- Provides environments that encourage and facilitate young people to enjoy participating in a fun, contemporary, Irish language community
- Provides a vibrant, varied, and planned youth work programme through Irish that encourages creative thinking, confidence building and social development.

2. Commitment to Safeguard Children from harm

Ógras is committed to providing a service of the highest of standards which promotes good practice and provides a safe environment that protects children and young people from harm. It will also ensure that procedures are in place to protect staff / leaders / committees and the organisation from potential allegations.

To ensure this, the following principles are applied:

- Recognise and ensure that the welfare of children is of paramount importance
- Everyone is responsible for child safeguarding and child protection
- Children have the right to be listened to and heard

- Parents and guardians should be respected, and should be consulted.
- Parents and guardians should be involved in issues related to their families unless in doing so puts the child at risk
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers are Vetted by the Garda Síochána
- Provide leaders and staff with Child Protection Guidelines and Code of Practice Guidelines
- Provide training to staff and leaders in relation to the organisation's policies
- Sharing information with the appropriate authorities on the basis of requirement
- Adhere to the procedures set out for the recruitment and selection of staff members and volunteers
- Manage staff and volunteers effectively through support, training and supervision
- We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

Designated Liaison Person (DLP):
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 Piper's Hill,
 Naas, Co. Kildare.

3. Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Ógras Board of Management has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the service or participating in activities.

	Risks Identified	Procedures in place to mitigate against risk
1	Recruit unsuitable people	All volunteers over 16 years of age are Garda Vetted before commencing work. References required for staff and volunteers
2	Insufficient Child Safeguarding Training	All staff and volunteers must complete the Tusla ELearning module and supply certificate of completion to Ógras

3	Children not able to or not aware of how to make a complaint	All members informed of procedures – workshop organised within clubs at least once per year
4	Risk of harm to members from other individuals using the venue at the same time as the club	Follow Guidelines for Day Trip and Travel away from home
5	Risk of harm to members from leaders/staff when attending events away from the normal club setting i.e. overnight trips Baol díobhála do bhaill ó cheannairí/baill foirne taobh amuigh de ghnáth láthair an chlub m.sh turais thar oíche.	Follow organisation's Code of Ethics and Best Practice Follow Code of Conduct for club meetings and events Follow Guidelines for Volunteers as stated in <i>Treoirínte Cosaint Leanaí Ógras</i>
6	(a) Inappropriate relationship between a young person and adult or another young person (b) Inappropriate relationship between two or more young persons	Ensure everyone in the organisation is aware of the organisations Child Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines Provide continuous training on Child Safeguarding/Protection Ensure everyone complies with the organisations Code of Conduct Suitable level of monitoring at clubs and events
7	Risk of abuse from access/use of computers/Internet/social media/ mobile phones etc within the club	Ógras Internet and Social Media Policy
8	Risk of harm as a result of not complying with Code of Conduct	Ensure all leaders/staff are aware and trained on the organisations Code of Conduct
9	Risk of abuse to a young person as a result of online activity	Follow Ógras Policy and Guidelines with regard to clubs and camps on-line
10	Lack of supervision at events/clubs/camps	Follow Code of Conduct for meetings and club events
11	Risk of harm due to bullying from other children	Implement Anti-Bullying Policy lasaí Organise anti-bullying workshops within clubs

12	Risk of in-appropriate material being shared by staff/leaders through text / on social media/ Whatsapp etc with children/young people	Ensure leaders and staff members are aware and comply with Ógras Social Media Policy.
13	Lack of reporting or delayed reporting of an incident resulting in report being inaccurate	Follow guidance with regard to reporting accidents/incidents. Any concerns should be reported to Ógras DLP.

In addition to the procedures set out in the Risk Assessment, the following policies and procedures have been put in place:

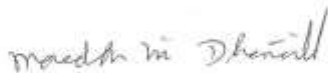
- Process to deal with allegations of abuse or misconduct against a member of staff or leader of a child using their services
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children.
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and 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 on request.

4. 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 services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 6th July 2025 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Dáta: 06/07/2023

Stiúrthóir Ógras

For further information on this Statement, contact **MAEDHBH NÍ DHÓNAILL**, Relevant Person under Children First Act 2015.

<https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-guidance-and-legislation/>