



POLISH SCOUTING ASSOCIATION

ZWIĄZEK HARCERSTWA POLSKIEGO

OKRĘG IRLANDIA



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Name of service being provided

The Polish Scouting Association (PSA) in the Republic of Ireland organises scouting activities to the members of the organisation. The activities include but are not limited to hiking, camping, weekly meetings, training courses, pioneering and any other scouting activities that take place in designated areas for children aged 4 – 18.

Statement of commitment

The PSA is aware that many young people are victims of different kinds of abuse. We aim to create an environment that is safe, and we are committed to doing everything in our power to protect children, promote their welfare and support their families.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- effectively safeguard children and promote their rights and welfare.
- provide all leaders and volunteers with clear rules and policies.
- make all leaders and volunteers aware of what is expected of them in terms of their approach, behaviour and actions; and
- provide evidence to relevant parties that we are committed to safeguarding.

Scope of this policy

This policy applies to all PSA members, including trustees and anyone working on behalf of the PSA.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is the process of:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best opportunities for development and mental stimulation.

Child protection is a system designed to prevent and respond to harm, abuse, and neglect of children. It encompasses both preventative measures and interventions to ensure children's safety, well-being, and development. This involves protecting children from various forms of abuse and neglect, including physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect.



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Legislative framework

At PSA, we recognise our legal responsibility to safeguard children and promote their welfare. Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children's First Act 2015, Children's 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.

Underlying principles:

- Listening to children and young people and respecting and valuing them at all times
- Challenging discrimination and promoting the right to equal protection regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, faith, gender, sexual orientation, disability, social or immigration status or any other element of diversity.
- Providing effective management to volunteers to raise the awareness of the responsibilities of safeguarding through support, supervision and training.
- Recruiting leaders and volunteers safely, ensuring that all necessary checks are made and safe recruitment good practice guidelines are followed.
- Responding to both child protection and non-child protection concerns immediately.
- In cases of doubt, questions or need for guidance, always seeking guidance.
- Working in partnership with children, their parents and carers, members of the local community and statutory and voluntary organisations.

Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Risk identified	Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage Risk
Bullying of a child.	Anti-bullying Policy.
Risk of harm of sexual abuse (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer.	Child Safeguarding Policy; Garda Vetting of each volunteer, CPAP training.
Risk of harm of physical/psychological/emotional abuse (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer.	Code of Good Practice.
Risk of harm of abuse when away for overnight stays / excursions.	Online camp registration with two stage approval.
Risk of harm of online abuse through social media.	Online Safety policy implemented across all social media platforms: (Code of Good Practice)



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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 or before 31.12.2026 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Details of the Child Protection Officer and their Deputies:

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