

Child Safeguarding statement

Barnardos is Ireland's leading children's charity that works to help the most vulnerable children in society achieve their full potential. We work with children from birth to 18 years of age and their parents and carers. Barnardos mission is to deliver services and work with families, communities, and our partners to transform the lives of vulnerable children who are affected by adverse childhood experiences.

Head Office: Barnardos Ireland, 4 Christchurch Square, Dublin 8 Eircode: D08 DT63
01 453 0355 info@barnardos.ie

Barnardos provides the following services:



Family Support services which seek to promote the welfare of vulnerable children and their families in their homes and in their communities.



Early Years care and education programme, with a particular focus on children aged three to five years from disadvantaged groups and those living in challenging family circumstances.



A range of 23 **specialist services** including Bereavement Support Services, Post Adoption Services for children and adults (PAS), Origins service, Birth History service, Young Parent Support Programmes, National Childhood Domestic Abuse Project, TLC KIDZ Project, Better Finglas (ABC initiative), Family Resource Centres, Community and Family Hub, Special Needs service, supporting children and families from Ukraine & International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) Centres and Traveller Women in Prison.



A number of services within **schools** including Roots of Empathy, Wizards of Words, Breakfast Clubs, Afterschool Groups, National Wellbeing Project, Online Safety Programme and Friendship Group.



Parent and Toddler groups, Parental Advocacy & Information Service, Initial Assessment Services, Homemaker Service, Family Welfare Conference services.

Service:

(insert name of local service)

Address:

(insert address of local service)

Description of service:

(insert description of local service)

Barnardos principals to safeguard children from harm are:



Barnardos is committed to safeguarding children from harm.

We listen to children and act on what they say.

We keep children at the centre of our work and promote their wellbeing.

All our work is purposeful, needs-led, and outcomes-focused to help children to grow, develop, and achieve their full potential.

We are committed to ensuring everyone is treated fairly. We strive to create situations where everyone can participate, thrive and contribute, in line with our core values of respect and equality for all, regardless of their family circumstances, their gender, sexual orientation, race or disability.

Risk assessment

We have conducted a risk assessment in order to identify and address any potential risk to children's wellbeing while attending our services. Below is a summarised list of potential risks on an organisation-wide level and the list of procedures for managing these risks. Each relevant service delivery unit maintains additional location-specific risks on the required template.

Risk Identified ¹	Procedure in Place to Manage Risk
Risk of harm to a child through lack of effective identification and reporting of child protection concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child protection policy and training • Recruitment and selection procedure • Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in each service • Reporting structure, case management process, and supervision procedures
Risk of harm to a child by a visitor to the service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection policy • Supervision/ accompaniment policies and procedures • Protocols and guidelines regarding safe practice in service delivery • Authorisation to collect policy • Health and Safety policy
Risk of harm to a child by a member of staff/ volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection policy • Staff information and supervision procedures • Child protection and welfare reporting procedure • Recruitment policies and procedures • Garda Vetting policy & Operational Guide • Community Employment Procedures Manual • Regularly reviewed policies, protocols, procedures, and guidelines regarding safe practice and service delivery • Appropriate management ratios • Case Management Process operational
Risk of harm to a child through lack of parents and children's awareness of their rights and how to report a concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection policy • Barnardos Guides for Parents and Children/Young People • Information on Tusla and Gardaí collaboration • Information guidance on reporting concerns • Procedure for processing Service-Related Comments and Complaints
Risk of harm to a child through unauthorised photography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection policy • Policy and procedures on the Use of the Internet, Photographic & Recording Devices

¹ The definition of harm in relation to a child is: 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 sexual abuse of the child.

Risk of harm to a child on outings by a member of staff/volunteer/stranger/peer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outings policy • Transport policy • Child Protection policy • Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
Risk of harm to a child through lack of supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Play Policy • Transition Policy • Lone work procedures • Child Protection policy
Risk of harm of bullying of a child by an older child/peer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision/accompaniment • Anti-bullying policies and guidelines • Barnardos non-tolerance approach to bullying • Child Protection policy
Risk of harm to a child through social media/internet use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnardos Guides for Parents and Children/Young People • Social media/internet use policies and guidelines • Digital Best Practice Framework • Online Safety Programme • Child Protection policy

Procedures



Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under 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*. Barnardos has procedures to keep children safe when they are using our services either in person or online contact, in line with the Children First Act 2015. All our staff and volunteers are trained in how to respond to child protection concerns. We respond to all concerns as quickly as possible.

Barnardos has a strong management structure in place to ensure that the organisation is run well, this includes a Board with an Audit and Services Committee. Barnardos staff and volunteers who work with children and families are Garda checked, qualified and receive supervision.

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:

- Procedures for responding to an allegation of child abuse made against any member of Barnardos' staff/volunteer/student
- 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 in the relevant service who are mandated persons
- Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015
- Protected disclosures (whistleblowing) policy
- Data protection policy and Electronic Record Keeping system

All procedures listed are available upon request.

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.

Barnardos Child Safeguarding statement will be reviewed by Barnardos Head Office on 20th of February 2026, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers. For queries, please contact:

Signed:

Siobhan Greene, Director of Children's Services
Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015
info@barnardos.ie

(insert local service name)

This Child Safeguarding Statement in relation to _____
will be reviewed on _____, or as soon as practicable after there has been a
material change in any matter to which the statement refers. For queries, please contact:

(insert signature of local service relevant person)

Signed:

(insert name of local service relevant person)

Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015

(Insert contact details of local service relevant person)

