



## Trinity College Dublin

### CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

#### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement is to ensure that Trinity College Dublin meets its statutory obligations under the *Children First Act 2015* and ensures as far as practicable that children and young people under its care and supervision are kept safe from harm. It is to be read in conjunction with Trinity's Child Protection Policy.

#### 2. Name of service being provided

Trinity College Dublin, hereinafter Trinity, is a community of scholars, made up of students, academic staff, administrative and professional staff. It is the provider of undergraduate and postgraduate education and is recognised as one of Europe's leading research-intensive universities and its research continues to address issues of global societal and economic importance.

#### 3. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

Trinity is a Relevant Service as set out in Schedule 1 of the *Children First Act 2015*. Trinity admits students who may be aged under 18. Trinity also provides services to children through its day nursery, sporting activities, holiday camps, cultural activities, work placements and many other activities, which permit children to remain on campus for periods without their parents.

Trinity adheres to the following principles to safeguard children in its care from harm:

- In all matters relating to children, the best interests and welfare of children is of paramount importance.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents/guardians/carers and families but where there is conflict, the child's welfare comes first.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and to be taken seriously and taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- Within the context of the Child Protection Policy which is designed to protect children from abuse, parents/guardians/carers have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters concerning their children. In particular, parents/guardians should be informed if the University's Child Protection Officer intends to report concerns of possible child abuse or neglect to the relevant

authorities unless providing such information to the parents/guardians might place the child at risk.

- Actions taken to protect a child should not in themselves be abusive or cause the child unnecessary distress and every action and procedure should consider the overall needs of the child.
- The safety and well-being of the child must take priority over concerns about adults against whom an allegation may be made.
- Effective child protection requires familiarity with child protection legislation, guidelines and procedures and clarity of responsibility for staff and students who have substantial unsupervised access to children as part of their work, formal studies or Trinity affiliated extra-curricular activities.

#### 4. Risk assessment

A high-level risk assessment has been conducted of all activities at the university that pose a risk of potential for harm to a child while availing of the University's services/activities. Below is a list of risks identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Activity/Setting	Risk(s) Identified	Mitigation	Future actions	Owner	Rank
<p>Teaching involving children, e.g. transition year programmes.</p> <p>It is recognised that there is a small percentage of students that may be under 18 years of age on starting first year.</p>	<p><b>Risk of a child being harmed by a member of Trinity staff due to insufficient safeguarding measures in place.</b></p>	<p>Robust recruitment procedures in place for staff and volunteers who will have unsupervised access to children and/or vulnerable adults in the course of their employment/engagement including mandatory vetting as mandated by the <i>National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016</i>.</p>	<p>Recruitment and admissions documentation to include links to the Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement for all staff and students to raise awareness of the child protection procedures in place at Trinity.</p> <p>Email to be issued to Heads of School, DUTLs and School Administrative Managers to request that for any regular teaching activities that involve children that are under 18 outside of the normal curriculum, that they consider whether it is necessary to compile a Child Safeguarding Statement that sets out child protection procedures and a risk assessment aligned to the University's policy as well as putting in place a designated child protection contact person. They will also be asked to consider if child protection training needs to be completed by any staff, volunteers or students involved with teaching activities outside of the curriculum that involve children.</p>	Vice-Provost/CAO	Low
<p>Teaching involving children, e.g. transition year programmes.</p> <p>It is recognised that there is a small percentage of students that may be under 18 years of</p>	<p><b>Risk of indicators of harm not being recognised by Trinity staff due to lack of awareness of information contained in the Child Protection Policy and lack of training.</b></p>	<p>Guidelines on defining, identifying and responding to child abuse or neglect are set out in the University's Child Protection Policy.</p> <p>Trinity staff working with children are trained appropriately in child protection procedures and this is managed and monitored by the Secretary's Office. The University's Child Protection Officer works with appropriate</p>	<p>Recruitment and admissions documentation to include links to the Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement for all staff and students to raise awareness of the child protection procedures in place at Trinity.</p> <p>Email to be issued to Heads of School, DUTLs and School Administrative Managers to request that for any regular teaching activities that involve children that are under 18 outside of the normal</p>	Vice-Provost/CAO	Low

Activity/Setting	Risk(s) Identified	Mitigation	Future actions	Owner	Rank
age on starting first year.		bodies in the University to identify specific groups of staff who require such training.	curriculum, that they consider whether it is necessary to compile a Child Safeguarding Statement that sets out child protection procedures and a risk assessment aligned to the University's policy as well as putting in place a designated child protection contact person. They will also be asked to consider if child protection training needs to be completed by any staff, volunteers or students involved with teaching activities outside of the curriculum that involve children.		
Teaching involving children, e.g. transition year programmes.  It is recognised that there is a small percentage of students that may be under 18 years of age on starting first year.	<b>Risk of harm not being reported properly by Trinity staff due to lack of awareness of reporting procedures.</b>	Robust procedures for the reporting of abuse in place and a designated University Child Protection Officer appointed.	Recruitment and admissions documentation to include links to the Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement for all staff and students to raise awareness of the child protection procedures in place at Trinity.  Email to be issued to Heads of School, DUTLs and School Administrative Managers to request that for any regular teaching activities that involve children that are under 18 outside of the normal curriculum, that they consider whether it is necessary to compile a Child Safeguarding Statement that sets out child protection procedures and a risk assessment aligned to the University's policy as well as putting in place a designated child protection contact person. They will also be asked to consider if child protection training needs to be completed by any staff, volunteers or students involved with teaching activities outside of the curriculum that involve children.	Vice-Provost/CAO	Low
Research involving children.	<b>Risk of a child being harmed by a member of Trinity staff or research student conducting research that involves children due to</b>	Researchers (staff and students) must undergo Garda vetting where they may be working alone with children as mandated by the <i>National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 and 2016</i> .		Dean of Research	Low

Activity/Setting	Risk(s) Identified	Mitigation	Future actions	Owner	Rank
	<b>insufficient safeguarding measures in place.</b>	Parental consent must be obtained before any research activity is conducted with children. Any research activity must respect the child's right to confidentiality and comply with any relevant code of ethics applicable to the type of research being conducted.			
Research involving children.	<b>Risk of indicators of harm not being recognised by Trinity staff due to lack of awareness of information contained in the Child Protection Policy and lack of training.</b>	Guidelines on defining, identifying and responding to child abuse or neglect are set out in the University's Child Protection Policy.	Recruitment and admissions documentation to include links to the Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement for all staff and students to raise awareness of the child protection procedures in place at Trinity.	Dean of Research	Low
Research involving children.	<b>Risk of harm not being reported properly by Trinity staff due to lack of awareness of reporting procedures.</b>	Robust procedures for the reporting of abuse in place and a designated University Child Protection Officer appointed.  Trinity staff working with children are trained appropriately in child protection procedures and this is managed and monitored by the Secretary's Office. The University's Child Protection Officer works with appropriate bodies in the University to identify specific groups of staff who require such training.	Recruitment and admissions documentation to include links to the Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement for all staff and students to raise awareness of the child protection procedures in place at Trinity.	Dean of Research	Low
Student work placements that involve children.	<b>Risk of a child being harmed by a Trinity student on a work placement due to insufficient safeguarding measures in place.</b>	Any student offered a place on a course that requires students to undertake placements with external agencies which will bring them into contact with children and in which they will assume positions of trust shall be required to undergo Garda vetting in accordance with the legislative requirements of the <i>National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 and 2016</i> .  All applicants for placements or research positions that entail work with children shall be required to sign Garda Vetting forms.	Recruitment and admissions documentation to include links to the Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement for all staff and students to raise awareness of the child protection procedures in place.	Heads of Schools whose programmes facilitate and require student work placements involving children	Low

Activity/Setting	Risk(s) Identified	Mitigation	Future actions	Owner	Rank
Children's holiday camps (e.g. Trinity Sport) and clubs (e.g. Walton Club)	<b>Risk of a child being harmed by a member of Trinity staff or volunteer participating in summer camps due to insufficient safeguarding measures in place.</b>	<p>Robust recruitment procedures in place for staff and volunteers who will have unsupervised access to children and/or vulnerable adults in the course of their employment/engagement including mandatory vetting as mandated by the <i>National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 and 2016</i>.</p> <p>Procedures are in place regarding the supervision of children, with the University Child Protection Policy setting out that children must be properly supervised in all activities. In particular, children should not normally be left unattended; insofar as is possible, adequate numbers of Trinity personnel of both sexes should be available to supervise activities; such personnel must know at all times where children are and what they are doing.</p>	Email to be issued to Heads of School, DUTLs, School Administrative Managers and Heads of Unit to request that for any regular activities such as summer camps and clubs that involve children that are under 18 outside of the normal curriculum, that they consider whether it is necessary to compile a Child Safeguarding Statement that sets out child protection procedures and a risk assessment aligned to the University's policy as well as putting in place a designated child protection contact person. They will also be asked to consider if child protection training needs to be completed by any staff, volunteers or students involved with children's holiday camps and clubs.	<p>Head of Sport and Recreation</p> <p>Heads of School where programmes are run that involve children outside of the normal curriculum</p> <p>Heads of Unit where programmes are run that involve children outside of the normal curriculum</p>	Low
Children's holiday camps (e.g. Trinity Sport) and clubs (e.g. Walton Club)	<b>Risk of indicators of harm not being recognised by Trinity staff or volunteers due to lack of awareness of information contained in the Child Protection Policy and lack of training.</b>	Guidelines on defining, identifying and responding to child abuse or neglect are set out in the University's Child Protection Policy.	Email to be issued to Heads of School, DUTLs, School Administrative Managers and Heads of Unit to request that for any regular activities such as summer camps and clubs that involve children that are under 18 outside of the normal curriculum, that they consider whether it is necessary to compile a Child Safeguarding Statement that sets out child protection procedures and a risk assessment aligned to the University's policy as well as putting in place a designated child protection contact person. They will also be asked to consider if child protection training needs to be completed by any staff, volunteers or students involved with children's holiday camps and clubs.	<p>Head of Sport and Recreation</p> <p>Heads of School where programmes are run that involve children outside of the normal curriculum</p> <p>Heads of Unit where programmes are run that involve children outside of the normal curriculum</p>	Low

Activity/Setting	Risk(s) Identified	Mitigation	Future actions	Owner	Rank
Children's holiday camps (e.g. Trinity Sport) and clubs (e.g. Walton Club)	<b>Risk of harm not being reported properly by Trinity staff or volunteers due to lack of awareness of reporting procedures.</b>	Robust procedure for the reporting of abuse in place and a designated University Child Protection Officer appointed.	Email to be issued to Heads of School, DUTLs, School Administrative Managers and Heads of Unit to request that for any regular activities such as summer camps and clubs that involve children that are under 18 outside of the normal curriculum, that they consider whether it is necessary to compile a Child Safeguarding Statement that sets out child protection procedures and a risk assessment aligned to the University's policy as well as putting in place a designated child protection contact person. They will also be asked to consider if child protection training needs to be completed by any staff, volunteers or students involved with children's holiday camps and clubs.	Head of Sport and Recreation  Heads of School where programmes are run that involve children outside of the normal curriculum  Heads of Unit where programmes are run that involve children outside of the normal curriculum	Low
Work placements at Trinity that involve children (e.g. transition year students, school visits)	<b>Risk of a child being harmed by a member of Trinity staff while participating in a work placement at Trinity due to insufficient safeguarding measures in place.</b>	Children attending the University as part of a school visit are accompanied by teacher(s) or a guardian.  Robust recruitment procedures in place for staff who will have unsupervised access to children and/or vulnerable adults in the course of their employment/engagement including mandatory vetting as mandated by the <i>National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 and 2016</i> .	Email to be issued to Heads of School, DUTLs, School Administrative Managers and Heads of Unit to request that for any regular work placements that involve children that are under 18 outside of the normal curriculum, that they consider whether it is necessary to compile a Child Safeguarding Statement that sets out child protection procedures and a risk assessment aligned to the University's policy as well as putting in place a designated child protection contact person. They will also be asked to consider if child protection training needs to be completed by any staff, volunteers or students involved with work placements that involve children.	Heads of School where work placements are run that involve children outside of the normal curriculum  Heads of Unit where work placements are run that involve children outside of the normal curriculum	Low
Work placements at Trinity that involve children (e.g. transition year)	<b>Risk of indicators of harm not being recognised by Trinity staff due to lack of awareness of information contained in</b>	Guidelines on defining, identifying and responding to child abuse or neglect are set out in the University's Child Protection Policy.	Email to be issued to Heads of School, DUTLs, School Admin Managers and Heads of Unit to request that for any regular work placements that involve children that are under 18 outside of the normal curriculum, that they consider whether it is	Heads of School where work placements are run that involve children outside of	Low

Activity/Setting	Risk(s) Identified	Mitigation	Future actions	Owner	Rank
students, school visits)	<b>the Child Protection Policy and lack of training.</b>		necessary to compile a Child Safeguarding Statement that sets out child protection procedures and a risk assessment aligned to the University's policy as well as putting in place a designated child protection contact person. They will also be asked to consider if child protection training needs to be completed by any staff, volunteers or students involved with work placements that involve children.	the normal curriculum  Heads of Unit where work placements are run that involve children outside of the normal curriculum	
Work placements at Trinity that involve children (e.g. transition year students, school visits)	<b>Risk of harm not being reported properly by Trinity staff due to lack of awareness of reporting procedures.</b>	Robust procedure for the reporting of abuse in place and a designated University Child Protection Officer appointed.	Email to be issued to Heads of School, DUTLs, School Admin Managers and Heads of Unit to request that for any regular work placements that involve children that are under 18 outside of the normal curriculum, that they consider whether it is necessary to compile a Child Safeguarding Statement that sets out child protection procedures and a risk assessment aligned to the University's policy as well as putting in place a designated child protection contact person. They will also be asked to consider if child protection training needs to be completed by any staff, volunteers or students involved with work placements that involve children.	Heads of School where work placements are run that involve children outside of the normal curriculum  Heads of Unit where work placements are run that involve children outside of the normal curriculum	Low
On-campus Accommodation and Accommodation in Trinity Hall used by Children (e.g. in the summer months).	<b>Risk of a child being harmed by a member of Trinity staff while staying in on-campus accommodation or accommodation at Trinity Hall due to insufficient safeguarding measures in place.</b>	All under 18s staying in on-campus accommodation during the summer months must be accompanied by a parent or guardian/group leader.  Regarding under 18s staying in Trinity Hall both during the academic term (mainly from the US) and from language schools over the summer period, all Assistant Wardens are Garda vetted as mandated by the <i>National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 and 2016</i> .		Head of Accommodation and Warden of Trinity Hall	Low



Activity/Setting	Risk(s) Identified	Mitigation	Future actions	Owner	Rank
		Security and Estates and Facilities staff coming on site at Trinity Hall are Garda vetted. Many accommodation staff have also been Garda vetted prior to taking up employment.			
On-campus Accommodation and Accommodation in Trinity Hall used by Children (e.g. in the summer months).	<b>Risk of indicators of harm not being recognised by Trinity staff due to lack of awareness of information contained in the Child Protection Policy and lack of training.</b>	Guidelines on defining, identifying and responding to child abuse or neglect are set out in the University's Child Protection Policy.		Head of Accommodation and Warden of Trinity Hall	Low
On-campus Accommodation and Accommodation in Trinity Hall used by Children (e.g. in the summer months).	<b>Risk of harm not being reported properly by Trinity staff due to lack of awareness of reporting procedures.</b>	Robust procedure for the reporting of abuse in place and a designated University Child Protection Officer appointed.		Head of Accommodation and Warden of Trinity Hall	Low
Day Nursery	<b>Risk of a child being harmed by a member of Day Nursery staff due to insufficient safeguarding measures in place.</b>	Robust recruitment procedures in place for Day Nursery Staff including mandatory vetting as mandated by the <i>National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 and 2016</i> .  Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment in place at Day Nursery.		Day Nursery Manager	Low
Day Nursery	<b>Risk of harm from unannounced visitors to services (e.g. maintenance/repairs/deliveries) due to insufficient safeguarding measures in place.</b>	Robust recruitment procedures in place for Day Nursery Staff including mandatory vetting as mandated by the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 and 2016.  Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment in place at Day Nursery.		Day Nursery Manager	Low
Day Nursery	<b>Risk of indicators of harm not being recognised by Day Nursery due to insufficient Child Protection Training and information.</b>	Robust recruitment procedures in place for Day Nursery Staff including mandatory vetting as mandated by the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 and 2016.		Day Nursery Manager	Low

Activity/Setting	Risk(s) Identified	Mitigation	Future actions	Owner	Rank
		Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment in place at Day Nursery.			
Day Nursery	<b>Risk of harm not being reported properly by Day Nursery staff due to lack of awareness of reporting procedures.</b>	Robust recruitment procedures in place for Day Nursery Staff including mandatory vetting as mandated by the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 and 2016.  Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment in place at Day Nursery.		Day Nursery Manager	Low
Counselling services availed of by those under 18 years of age.	<b>Risk of a child being harmed by a member of Counselling Service staff due to insufficient safeguarding measures in place.</b>	Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment in place at Counselling Service.  Garda vetting completed by Counselling staff before start date as mandated by the <i>National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 and 2016</i> and confidentiality agreement signed.  Counselling Service policy is to ensure at least 2 clinicians are on-site at all times while clients are present.		Director of Counselling	Low
Counselling services availed of by those under 18 years of age.	<b>Risk of indicators of harm not being recognised by Counselling Service staff due to insufficient Child Protection Training and information.</b>	Tusla Online Child protection training completed by staff of Counselling Service (trainees & volunteers).  All core clinical staff attend weekly team meetings where child protection issues are discussed.  All clinicians are required to attend regular clinical supervision.		Director of Counselling	Low
Counselling services availed of by those under 18 years of age.	<b>Risk of harm not being reported properly by Counselling Service staff due</b>	All staff undergo induction re policy and procedures.  All core clinical staff attend weekly team		Director of Counselling	Low

Activity/Setting	Risk(s) Identified	Mitigation	Future actions	Owner	Rank
	<b>to lack of awareness of reporting procedures.</b>	meetings where child protection issues are discussed.  All clinicians are required to attend regular clinical supervision.			
Events involving the public including children (e.g. Trinity week, public lectures and exhibitions) and campus visits (e.g. campus tours, Book of Kells/Old Library)	<b>Risk of a child being harmed by a member of the Trinity community due to insufficient safeguarding measures in place.</b>	24-hour College Security on campus.  School groups of children accompanied by teacher(s)/guardians.  Risk assessment of events are required.	Include section on the University's Event Safety Management Plan template seeking information on whether under 18s are likely to attend events and that if so, confirmation that a risk assessment has been conducted to assess if there is any risk of harm to them and mitigations in place to address these. Include link to Child Protection Policy on the template.	Faculty Deans or Heads of Schools running events  Heads of Units running events	Low
Communications involving children (photos, social media, videos, etc.)	<b>Risk of Trinity personnel, or photographers/videographers on behalf of Trinity, inappropriately taking images of children without parental/guardian consent due to lack of understanding of consent procedures and Code of Behaviour.</b>	Where Trinity personnel wish to use photographs, film or video of children, the consent of the children and their parents/guardians/carers must be obtained and all such media must be stored safely.  Code of behaviour set out in the University's Child Protection Policy.		Director of Public Affairs and Communications	Low

## 5. Procedures

Trinity's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the *Children First Act 2015*, the *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 Trinity's intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities and services:

- The procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our activities/services as set out in the Child Protection Policy, section 7.3.
- The procedures for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children as set out in the Child Protection Policy, Appendices B, C.1, C.2 and C.3.
- The procedures for the safe recruitment of students on placements or undertaking research with children as set out in Appendix D of the Child Protection Policy.
- The procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm as set out in the Child Protection Policy, section 7.8. Guidelines on identifying child abuse and neglect are provided in Appendix G of the policy.
- The procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla as set out in the Child Protection Policy, section 7.3.1 and guidelines on defining, identifying and responding to child abuse or neglect as set out in Appendix G of the policy.
- The Child Protection Officer will keep a list of Mandated Persons at the University in accordance with the legislation.
- The University has appointed the Child Protection Officer (Designated Liaison Person) and Relevant Person to be the first point of contact in respect of this Child Safeguarding Statement. The role and responsibilities of the Child Protection Officer are set out in section 7.2 of the policy.

## 6. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Trinity 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 activities and services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

The Provost as head of the University has overall responsibility for the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed:



---

Dr Linda Doyle  
Provost and President

Date: 17 November 2022

For queries, please contact Victoria Butler, Child Protection Officer, [butlerv@tcd.ie](mailto:butlerv@tcd.ie)