

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Cork English College, CEC, offers winter and summer junior language and activity programmes to students from all over the world.

It is the policy of CEC to protect the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from neglect, physical, sexual and emotional harm or abuse.

Mandated people are the Centre Managers, Teachers and Staff.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Good Codes of Practice aim to raise awareness and understanding of the various categories of child abuse, the situations that might constitute reasonable grounds for concern and advice on how to respond to disclosure.

This Child Safeguarding Statement is based on and in compliance with the current child protection guidelines, legislation in the Republic of Ireland, 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.

Workers at CEC should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of young people and children, and should conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the company. CEC is committed to listening to children and young people and recognises that "each child has a right to express his or her opinion freely and to have that opinion taken into account" in any matter or procedure" (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child). The UN Convention on the Rights of the child should be respected in all aspects of the company's activities. CEC endeavours to ensure that children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm while taking part in educational programmes and events, at any time when required to work with children or young people.

We do this by:

- Familiarizing all employees and the company with the Child Safeguarding Policy Statement.
- Setting down codes of behaviour between workers and children and familiarising all and workers with them.
- Ensuring fair and consistent recruitment practices.
- Generating awareness and understanding of the various categories of child abuse, the situations that might constitute reasonable grounds for concern and advice on how to respond to disclosure.
- Monitoring procedures for responding to accidents and complaints.
- Putting in place a designated person to act as a liaison with outside agencies in relation to child protection accidents and complaints. Co-operating with TUSLA and professionals by sharing information when necessary and working together towards the best possible outcome for the children concerned.
- Carrying out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child or young person while availing of our services.

## **Procedures**

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:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/visitors of a child/young person availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and visitors to work with children and young persons;
- 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 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.

Marc Cullen

Director

Cork English College