

## **1. Child Safeguarding Statement**

Ógras is an Irish Language based national youth work organisation which provides youth services to those between the ages of 7-19 years. Services include Youth Clubs, Summer Camps, Training Courses as well as hosting national and international events in various locations throughout Ireland. Ógras employ five members of staff, three of which occupy our dublin based office (6 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2) – including the Director, Clerical Officer and the Leinster/Ulster Youth Development Officer. The Munster Youth Development Officer is based in Ballyheigue, Kerry and the Connacht Youth Development Officer is based in Galway.

Ógras aims:

- to promote the Irish language, culture and heritage among the youth by providing the space and the opportunity to use Irish comfortably and confidently as part of the growing Irish language community.
- to provide a safe and comfortable environment that is also fun and modern, where young people can meet and socialise through engaging in various activities through the medium of Irish.
- to provide a program for young people through Irish that is lively, varied and well organised and that inspires creative thinking, self confidence, social development and language development through activities, fun, sport, cultural activities and pastimes.

## **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):**

Maedhbh Ní Dhónaill

Office number: 00 353 1 4751487

Phone number: + 353 (0) 86 6018520

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Address: Ógras, 6 Harcourt St., Dublin 2.

**Deputy DLP:**

Anita Nic Amhlaoidh

Phone number: + 353 (0) 85 7028787

Address: Gaelscoil Nás na Ríogh, Piper's Hill, Naas, 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. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

	<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage Risk</b>
1	Recruitment of inadequate persons	Garda Vetting for all persons over 18 yrs before commencing work. Find a reference from each leader/employee
2	Insufficient Child Safeguarding Training	All leaders and staff will have to complete the online course and provide a copy of the certificate
3	Lack of opportunity and information provided to a child to make a complaint	Informing young people in the clubs - organizing information workshops in clubs at least once a year
4	Risk of harm from others who use the centre at the same time as the club	Adhere to Ógras Guidelines for trips
5	Risk of harm to members by leaders/staff members outside the usual club location e.g tours.	Adhere to the ethics and best practice code of the organization. Adhere to Code of Conduct for club meetings and events.
6	Inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	Ensure that everyone in the organisation is aware of the Child Protection Policy and

		Child Protection Guidelines. Provision of ongoing Child Protection training.
7	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while attending the club	Ógras's Internet Policy
8	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	Ensure that leaders / staff and the committee have knowledge and training about the organization's Code of Conduct
9	Inadequate supervision of children while attending clubs/camps/events	Adhere to Code of Conduct for club meetings and events.
10	Risk of harm due to bullying of child	Implement Anti-Bullying Policy. Organize anti-bullying workshops with clubs
11	Inappropriate communications or distribution of inappropriate material between child and another child/adult by texts, on any social media platforms or electronic devices etc.	Ensure that staff and leaders are aware of and adhering to the Social Media Policy
12	Risk of harm not being reported at all or promptly and inaccurate reports as a consequence	Adhere to the guidance set out in the Ógras Guidelines for reporting. Contact the Designated Liaison Ógras if there is any cause for concern.

#### 4. Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

As required by the Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children and Ógras's Child Protection Policy, the following safeguarding was formed by Ógras. 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.

## 5. 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 10 March 20120 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Maedhbh ní Dhónaill (ÓGRAS)

Service Provider's name and contact details:

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