

Child Safeguarding Statement

Solas Bhride Centre and Hermitages CLG is a Christian Spirituality Centre with a focus on the legacy of St. Brigid

The Vision of the Centre is to unfold the legacy of St. Brigid and its relevance for our world.

Services and Activities

- Facilitation of workshops on the traditions, values, and spirituality of St. Brigid
- Facilitation of retreat and pilgrimages with adults and young people
- Providing educational workshops on justice, peace and ecological issues
- Celebration of the seasons of the year, natural and liturgical
- Providing space for meditation and reflection
- Hosting cultural and artistic events

Principles to safeguard children from harm

Solas Bhride is committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people. The following guiding principles to safeguard children from harm are informed by Children First Guidance and legislation.

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility
- The best interest of the child should be paramount
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and to be taken seriously.
- All children must be treated equally,

Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our service. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks

Risk Category	Main procedures and controls in place to manage risk identified
1: Risk of harm to a child by a staff member or volunteer	Solas Bhride Child Protection Policy and Reporting Procedure and the procedure for managing allegations of abuse made against a staff member or volunteer. Recruitment and selection procedures Solas Bhride Code of Standards and Behaviour
2: Risk of harm to a child from a visitor of member of the public (adult or child) using Solas Bhride	Supervision and accompaniment policies are in place
3: Risk of harm to a child by outside agencies who work with children within Solas Bhride Centre	Outside agencies must provide Solas Bhride with their Child safeguarding statement on request. Children must be supervised by teacher/group leader/parent at all times Awareness of Centre staff to potential issues
4: Risk of child leaving group session and coming into contact with someone outside of group	Children always supervised by teacher/group leader/parent. Awareness of Centre staff to potential issues.

SOLAS BHRIDE CENTRE & HERMITAGES CHILDSAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

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5: Risk of child to inappropriate use of mobile phones by other children or adults in the presence of children	Procedures on the use of IT by Centre staff and volunteers Supervision of children by teacher/group leader/parent Publicly accessible Wi-fi is not available without prior permission.
6: Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance by relevant agencies.	Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person for the purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement Solas Bhride Child Safeguarding policies and procedures in place. Internal audit and compliance assurance measures

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*. 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in November 2024, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Rita Minehan Date: 27/10/2022

Rita Minehan
Chairperson

For queries, please contact

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) Phil O'Shea
Contact details: 045 522890

Deputy Designated Liaison Person Geraldine Moore
Contact details: 045 522890

Statutory Agencies TUSLA: Local Children First Information & Advice Officer: 045 986332
Gardai: Local Garda Station 045 52122

Solas Bhride Centre & Hermitages CLG, Tully Rd, Kildare Town, Co. Kildare
Email: info@solasbhride.ie Phone: 045 522890 Website: www.solasbhride.ie

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