

Child Safeguarding Statement: Rainbows Ireland

The Board of Rainbows Ireland has agreed this Child Safeguarding Statement:

Name of service: Rainbows Ireland

Nature of service: Rainbows Ireland provides peer group support for children and young people who are experiencing grief and loss following a significant bereavement and/or following the impact of parental separation, family break up or divorce.

Guiding Principles to Safeguard Children from harm:

In accordance with the requirements of the

- *Children First Act 2015*
- *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017*
- *Tusla's Child Safeguarding :A Guide for Policy, Procedures and Practice*

The Board OF Rainbows Ireland has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the above key documents as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

The Board of Rainbows Ireland recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of the Rainbows service and must be reflected in all policies, procedures, practices and activities.

- It is the intention of Rainbows Ireland to keep children safe from harm.
- The welfare and protection of children is of paramount importance.
- Rainbows Ireland is dedicated to safeguarding children as an utmost priority.
- The Board of Rainbows Ireland has agreed this Child Safeguarding Statement.

In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the Rainbows service will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

- Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect staff and volunteers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters

Key roles in safeguarding: Named Person

The Board OF Rainbows Ireland has appointed **Anne Staunton CEO** as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding.

Risk Assessment:

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board of Rainbows Ireland has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the Rainbows service.

A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the procedures for managing those risks is attached.

Procedures:

In addition to the procedures listed in our risk management, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service

1. Procedures for Responding to and reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla

In relation to the provision of instruction and training, to Rainbows staff and volunteers in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the Children First 2015 Act)

- All volunteers and staff have to complete and submit a certificate of completion of the Tusla On line training module – to be renewed every three years
- All volunteers and staff , current and new, are provided with a copy of Rainbows Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement
- All Facilitator training will include a blended child protection module to further embed the Tusla online training module into the role and responsibilities of all Rainbows volunteers in relation to this safeguarding statement
- The Board of Management maintains records of all staff ,volunteers and Board member training

In relation to reporting of child protection concerns in a Rainbows group , all volunteers are required to adhere to the Child Protection policy and procedures of Rainbows Ireland – namely all issues and welfare concerns are reported to the Rainbows Programme Centre named DLP. Records are held at a programme centre and maintained for twenty-one years.

Procedures continued...

2. Procedures for the safe recruitment and selection of volunteers to work with children

The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the Rainbows Ireland adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and best practice recruitment procedures in the voluntary and non-profit sector (<http://www.wheel.ie/content/volunteers-and-other-human-resources>)
 - All volunteers complete a Volunteer recruitment process.
 - Referees and photo identification must accompany all volunteer applications.
 - All volunteer applicants are interviewed and formally recruited by registered agencies (Schools, Family Resource Centres, Youth Work Agencies)

3. Procedure for sharing Guiding Principles and Child Safeguarding Procedures and involving parents/guardians, families and children and young people

- Child Protection procedures are clearly identified to all participants at the beginning of every programme including reminders at the beginning of every session of the nine week programme – namely
 - 1. If someone is harming you
 - 2. If you are harming yourself
 - 3. If you are harming someone else
- Parents and Guardians are informed of Child Protection Safeguarding policy and procedures prior to their child attending the programme
- This Child Safeguarding statement has been published on the website of Rainbows Ireland website.
- Parents and Guardians are informed of Child Protection Safeguarding policy and procedures prior to their child attending the programme
- It will be readily accessible to any parents and guardians on request
- A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department of Children if requested.
- This statement will be clearly displayed in the Rainbows Head Office.

4. Procedure for maintaining a list of persons who are mandated persons

See Appendix

5. Procedure for appointing a relevant person

Rainbows Ireland has appointed a relevant person named - Anne Staunton.

The named person is responsible for leading the development of guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures and for ensuring that policies and procedures are consistent with best practice as detailed in this Guide.

The named person will liaise with all key workers and volunteers who have relevant roles and responsibilities.

The named person can also assist with the review process.

Implementation, Monitoring and Reviewing:

The Board of Rainbows Ireland recognises that implementation is an ongoing 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 annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Rainbows Ireland on _____ [date].

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Rainbows Ireland

Signed: _____

CEO to the Board of Rainbows Ireland

For queries, please contact - Anne Staunton

Relevant Person under Children's First Act 2015

Appendix 1: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Template

Written Assessment of Risk

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015,

The following is the Written Risk Assessment of Rainbows Ireland

1. List of activities

- Group work with children of a similar age and loss experience
- Groups facilitated by two trained volunteers

2. The following risk of harm in respect of this activity

- Risk of harm a disclosure/welfare issue not being believed, reported properly and promptly by Rainbows personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the a Rainbows group by a Rainbows Volunteer
- Risk of child being harmed in the group by another child
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in a Rainbows group including at arrival and departures times
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing social media, phones and other devices while in the Rainbows group
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one
- Risk of harm caused by member of Rainbows personnel
- Risk of harm caused by Rainbows personnel or participants in a group circulating video or photographs of the group via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

3. Rainbows Ireland has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment

- Robust Child Protection and Safeguarding training for all volunteers
- Two Facilitators are always in each group – no group is ever left unsupervised
- Participants are supervised at all times when moving to/from group rooms
- Each group of participants agrees a Code of Conduct to allow the group process to be successful
- Each participant needs to be signed in on arrival
- Each participant needs to have three nominated persons to collect each participant in any week of the programme
- Participants need to be signed out to one of the designated people only who have the permission of both parents to collect each particular participant
- Participants need to be in groups of a similar age and loss experience as set out in the policy and procedures – age and loss cannot be mixed
- Any participant walking home alone after a Rainbows group must have the written permission of both parents accompanying the application form
- Mobile phones, lap tops, I pads etc. are not permitted in any group by participants and volunteers
- All Facilitators complete the Tusla on line training on Child Protection and Safe Guarding
- All Facilitators complete the Child Protection module during Facilitator training
- All Formation and Debriefing sessions during the programme delivery , revise Child Protection policies and procedures
- External supervision of all registered Rainbows centres during programme delivery

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of rainbows Ireland has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to the work of Rainbows Ireland and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, Rainbows Ireland has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Rainbows Ireland [date]. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Rainbows Ireland

Signed _____ Date _____

CEO of Rainbows Ireland

Appendix 2: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The Board of Rainbows Ireland must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and the following checklist shall be used for this purpose.

The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.

Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that Rainbows Ireland also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered.

As part of the overall review process, the Board of Rainbows Ireland will also assess relevant policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in Rainbows Ireland's Child Safeguarding Statement, in accordance with the Children First Act 2015.

| | Yes/No |
|--|--------|
| 1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with 2. Children First Act 2015? | |
| 3. Does the Rainbows Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? | |
| 4. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review? | |
| 5. Has the DLP attended available child protection training? | |
| 6. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training? | |
| 7. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training? | |
| 8. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed? | |
| 9. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand? | |
| 10. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the Rainbows Ireland's Child Safeguarding Statement to new personnel? | |
| 11. Is the Board satisfied that all volunteers have been made aware of their responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015? | |
| 12. Has the Board received Child Protection Oversight Report at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken? | |
| 13. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any child protection reports made to Tusla/An Garda Síochána by the DLP? | |
| 14. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where an allegation of abuse or neglect was made against any member of Rainbows Ireland personnel? | |
| 15. Has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report? | |
| 16. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed? | |

| | Yes/No |
|---|--------|
| 17. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of Rainbows personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?* | |
| 18. Were child protection matters reported to the Board appropriately recorded in the Board minutes? | |
| 19. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely? | |
| 20. Has the Board ensured that every Rainbows registered centre has been provided with the Rainbows Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement? | |
| 21. Has the Board ensured that the Child's Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request? | |
| 22. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all Rainbows personnel (employees and volunteers)? * | |
| 23. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement? | |
| 24. Has the Board identified any aspects of the Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement? | |
| 25. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the Rainbows Ireland's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement ? | |
| 26. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed? | |

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

CEO Rainbows Ireland

Appendix 3: Schedule of Mandated Persons under the Children First Act 2015

Schedule 2 of the Children First Act 2015 specifies the following classes of persons as mandated persons for the purposes of the Act:

1. Registered medical practitioner within the meaning of section 2 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007.
2. Registered nurse or registered midwife within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Nurses and Midwives Act 2011.
3. Physiotherapist registered in the register of members of that profession.
4. Speech and language therapist registered in the register of members of that profession.
5. Occupational therapist registered in the register of members of that profession.
6. Registered dentist within the meaning of section 2 of the Dentists Act 1985.
7. Psychologist who practises as such and who is eligible for registration in the register (if any) of members of that profession.
8. Social care worker who practises as such and who is eligible for registration in accordance with Part 4 of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 in the register of that profession.
9. Social worker who practises as such and who is eligible for registration in accordance with Part 4 of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 in the register (if any) of that profession.
10. Emergency medical technician, paramedic and advanced paramedic registered with the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council under the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (Establishment) Order 2000 (S.I. No. 109 of 2000).
11. Probation officer within the meaning of section 1 of the Criminal Justice (Community Service) Act 1983.
12. Teacher registered with the Teaching Council.
13. Member of An Garda Síochána.
14. Guardian ad litem appointed in accordance with section 26 of the Child Care Act 1991.
15. Person employed in any of the following capacities:
 - (a) Manager of domestic violence shelter;
 - (b) Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility;
 - (c) Manager of asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre;
 - (d) Addiction counsellor employed by a body funded, wholly or partly, out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas;

- (e) Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling who is registered with one of the voluntary professional bodies;
- (f) Manager of a language school or other recreational school where children reside away from home;
- (g) Member of the clergy (howsoever described) or pastoral care worker (howsoever described) of a church or other religious community;
- (h) Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court;
- (i) Safeguarding officer, child protection officer or other person (howsoever described) who is employed for the purpose of performing the child welfare and protection function of religious, sporting, recreational, cultural, educational and other bodies and organisations offering services to children;
- (j) Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991;
- (k) Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service within the meaning of section 2 of the Youth Work Act 2001.

16. Youth worker who—

- (a) Holds a professional qualification that is recognised by the National Qualifications Authority in youth work within the meaning of section 3 of the Youth Work Act 2001 or a related discipline, and
- (b) is employed in a youth work service within the meaning of section 2 of the Youth Work Act 2001.

17. Foster carer registered with Tusla.

18. A person carrying on a pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991.

Appendix 4: Notification regarding the Board of Management’s review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The Board of Rainbows Ireland wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management’s annual review of the Rainbows Ireland’s Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of _____ [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the “Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement” on the Tusla website

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Chairperson, Board of Rainbows Ireland

Signed _____ **Date** _____

CEO to the Board of Rainbows Ireland

For queries, please contact Anne Staunton

Relevant Person under Children’s First Act 2015