

1.12. Appendix I Child Safeguarding Statement

The Environmental An Taisce of An Taisce was set up in 1993 and runs a wide range of education and awareness raising projects, both national and international. In the delivery of these programs, An Taisce staff work closely with adults, young people and children.

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 the following is the Safeguarding Statement of An Taisce.

1. Safeguarding statement and principles

An Taisce is committed to a child-centred approach to working with children and young people and undertakes to provide a safe environment and experience wherein the welfare of the child is paramount. In adherence with the recommendations of *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2017* (Department of Children and Youth Affairs), An Taisce has implemented Child Protection Procedures covering:

- Recruitment and staff selection.
- Management and supervision of staff.
- A code of behaviour for all staff.
- Reporting of suspected or disclosed abuse.
- Involvement of primary carers.
- Allegations of misconduct or abuse carried out by staff.
- Incidents and accidents.
- Complaints and comments.
- Confidentiality.

2. Risk Assessment

Important Note:

It should be noted that "risk" in the context of this Risk Assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015; and not general and safety risk.

The Children First Act defined "harm" in relation to a child as:

- (a) Assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or**
 - (b) Sexual abuse of the child whether caused by a single act, omission, or**
 - (c) Circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.**
-

An Taisce has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities:

- 2.1. Children could be exposed through their involvement in An Taisce's activities to people who may harm them.
- 2.2. Staff or other adults working with children in An Taisce's activities could engage in unsafe work practices.
- 2.3. Staff or other adults working with children in An Taisce's activities could operate in unsafe environments.
- 2.4. Staff or other adults could behave inappropriately towards children taking part in An Taisce's activities.
- 2.5. Staff or other adults working with children in An Taisce's activities may lack clarity as to who is responsible for what in relation to child safeguarding and protection.
- 2.6. Children involved in An Taisce's activities may not understand what is expected of them in terms of their contact with and behaviour toward each other.
- 2.7. Staff or other adults working with children in An Taisce's activities may have reason to be concerned that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of abuse which may go undetected and unreported.
- 2.8. An Taisce's staff may be unaware of their responsibilities, or of the organisational support in place, in relation to the reportage of their concerns that a child may have been, is being, or is at risk of being abused.
- 2.9. Mandated persons may not be aware of their responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015.
- 2.10. Safeguarding practice may not be implemented in An Taisce 's activities.

3. Procedures

An Taisce has implemented the following measures to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:

- 3.1. The Board of An Taisce has agreed to implement the procedures set out in this Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 3.2. The Board of An Taisce recognises that child protection and welfare considerations must be reflected in all of its policies, procedures, practices and activities. At all times the An Taisce Board will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare.

An Taisce will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
 - 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 will protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
 - set down procedures for reporting suspected abuse and for complaints or accusations against staff;
 - ensure that parents, teachers and other adults working with the An Taisce fully understand their responsibilities in relation to the children in their care during their involvement in An Taisce's activities; and
 - fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.
- 3.3. In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the An Taisce Board has authorised and approved an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while participating in An Taisce's activities. A written list of the An Taisce's activities is attached as an Appendix to this statement.
- 3.4. The An Taisce Board has authorised the preparation of a Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Policy that outlines the responsibilities of employees and of other adults working with An Taisce's employees; and the procedures to be followed in terms of the identification and reportage of suspected abuse.
- 3.5. The An Taisce Board has implemented procedures for staff selection and recruitment to ensure that all eligible employees and volunteers who may be required to work with children in the course of any An Taisce activities are adequately screened for their suitability to work with children prior to the commencement of any such activity in their employment.
- 3.6. An Taisce adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 with regard to any employees or volunteers engaged in activities involving children.
-

- 3.7. The An Taisce Board has instigated staff management and supervision procedures; and all employees and volunteers are made aware of their reporting lines and supervision arrangements.
- 3.8. An Taisce has designed a code of behaviour for employees and volunteers working in activities involving children.
- 3.9. An Taisce's employees and volunteers may interact with children only in the presence of the children's primary carers, who may be parents, teachers or guardians; and adhere to strict adult/child ratios.
- 3.10. In relation to the provision of information, instruction and training of employees and volunteers with respect to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) An Taisce,
 - Ensures all new relevant employees and volunteers are provided with a copy of the An Taisce's Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures that all relevant employees and volunteers complete *Introduction to Children First* training by Tusla
 - Maintains records of all training in Child Protection procedures
- 3.11. An Taisce's employees are prepared and equipped to deal with any foreseeable incidents or accidents that may occur during an activity involving children.
- 3.12. An Taisce has outlined procedures to address the specific requirements of undertaking activities at different sites and locations.
- 3.13. In their An Taisce's roles, employees and Volunteers are not mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- 3.14. In relation to reportage of child protection concerns to Tusla, all staff are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the An Taisce's Child Protection Policy
- 3.15. The Designated Child Protection Representative for the Green-Schools Travel programme and any sub-programmes thereof is: *Lukasz Krzywon*
- 3.16. The Designated Child Protection Representative for all other An Taisce's programmes is: *Clare Patten*
- 3.17. The Director of the Environmental An Taisce of An Taisce has appointed the above persons as "relevant persons" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
- 3.18. The An Taisce Board has defined procedures and roles for dealing with complaints and comments made against employees.



- 3.19. In relation to any employee who may be under investigation for an act of abuse, An Taisce will adhere to the relevant procedures set out in its Child Protection Policy, and in its Disciplinary Policy and Procedures, where appropriate.
- 3.20. An Taisce's employees are required to uphold confidentiality requirements in relation to the reporting and/or investigation of suspected abuse.



4. Approval, implementation, review, and updates

In undertaking the abovementioned risk assessment, the An Taisce Board has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to An Taisce's activities; 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, An Taisce has implemented the procedures listed in the risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

The An Taisce Board recognises that implementation of the procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement is an on-going process and are committed to ensuring that children are kept safe from harm while participating in An Taisce's programmes and activities.

The various policies and procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed in relevant folder via the An Taisce's Sharepoint.

This statement has been provided to all staff and will be made available to relevant adults working with An Taisce's staff. It is readily available to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and to any of the An Taisce's Programme Funders if requested. It will also be publicly displayed on www.greenschoolsireland.org and at An Taisce's Environmental Education Office in Swift's Alley, Dublin.

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 risk assessment has been adopted by the Education Committee on [date].

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairperson, An Taisce

Signed _____ Date _____

1.13. Appendix II List of Activities

The Environmental An Taisce of An Taisce was set up in 1993 and runs a wide range of education and awareness raising projects, both national and international. In the delivery of these programs, An Taisce's employees work closely with adults, young people and children and undertake the following activities:

- **Neat Streets** - introductory workshops, presentations and events within schools; events and activities in areas local to participating schools such as community clean-ups and action days; workshops, award ceremonies, conferences etc. that may take place at a centralized location.
- Interaction with students participating in the **GLOBE** programme take place in their schools or in the area local to them; Interaction with students at various international events; potentially at future national events.
- Participation in **YRE/LL** events and activities held in participating schools or areas local to them; interaction with participating students at national awards ceremonies and workshops held in centralized locations.
- Delivery of various energy workshops in schools and external events on behalf of the **SEAI**.
- Workshops and presentations with students held in participating **Green-Schools** schools.
- **Green-Schools** Teacher Training seminars and EPV-Approved Summer Courses held in regional venues.
- Water workshops, **Life Below Water** workshops for participating **Green-Schools** held at centralized locations.
- Award ceremonies, exhibitions, forums and etc. with students participating in **Green-Schools** held at centralized locations.
- **Chefs Connect Project**- Students working on the **Global Citizenship Food and Biodiversity** theme can take part in workshops and demonstrations with volunteer chefs in their schools.
- Workshops and presentations with students held in participating **Green-Schools Travel and Global Citizenship Travel** schools; cycle and scooter training in the school grounds or local area; walkability and cyclability audits and audits for **Safer Routes to School** initiative; group walking or cycling events in the local area; forums, award ceremonies and other events held in centralized locations.
- Workshops and presentations with students held in participating **#andshecycles Ambassador**; forums, award ceremonies and other events held in centralized locations.

- **GS Water Ambassador** Programme - students from different secondary schools attend training and go on site visits to water-treatment plants.
- **Climate Ambassador Programme** - Programme for secondary, third level & adult community members. Delivering group training events; guest talks; workshops & site visits indoors & outdoors; attendance at festivals (for 18+ only) and at events; annual award ceremony.
- **Climate Action Teacher Training** events held at centralized locations regionally as part of the Climate Action Programme.
- Various events held during **Climate Action Week** annually.
- **Green Campus** annual network meeting and Change Makers events held at a centralized location.
- **Clean Coasts** facilitated clean ups and other beach management events at various beach sites; roadshow presentations in coastal communities; award ceremonies, talks, symposium etc. held in centralized locations.
- Various events held nationwide during **Clean Coasts Week**, e.g. yoga, drumming, fitness events and marram grass planting in coastal locations and events such as film screenings in centralized locations.
- **Clean Coasts** and **Think Before you Flush** awareness-raising at events not primarily managed by An Taisce, include music festivals, home shows, community events etc., in locations nationwide.
- **Think before You Flush** student workshops held in schools located in TBYP communities.
- Workshops with students held within the classrooms and grounds of schools and local environs, participating in **LEAF**;
- Workshops with students participating in **An Choill Bheag** in school grounds; and with community groups participating in tree planting workshops.
- All above programmes also engaging online in form of virtual workshops, events, committee meetings, online webinars.

1.14. Appendix III Staff Acknowledgement Form



Acknowledgement Form

<p>An Taisce</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>Acknowledgement Form</p>
<p>I, _____ have received and read the An Taisce Child Safeguarding Statement, which outlines the policies and procedures of the organisation, as well as my responsibilities as an employee.</p> <p>I have familiarised myself with the contents of the Safeguarding Statement and have discussed any queries I have with my Programme Manager.</p> <p>By my signature below, I acknowledge, understand, accept, and agree to comply with the information contained in this Safeguarding Statement by An Taisce.</p> <p>I understand this Safeguarding Statement is not intended to cover every situation which may arise during my employment but is a general guide to the policies and procedures of the organisation and my responsibilities as an employee.</p>
<p>_____</p> <p>Employer Signature</p>
<p>_____</p> <p>Employee Name (Print in Block Capitals)</p>
<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>