Child Safeguarding Statement V6

Board Approved Date: 07.05.2026

Name of service being provided:

Dyslexia Ireland is a national charity working in the field of dyslexia and dyscalculia.

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

Dyslexia Ireland works with and for people affected by dyslexia and dyscalculia, by providing information, offering appropriate support services, engaging in advocacy and raising awareness of dyslexia and dyscalculia. Services offered by Dyslexia Ireland include: information; assessment; specialist tuition workshops for children and adults; courses for parents; training for teachers and other education personnel; awareness training; and lobbying and advocacy.

Dyslexia Ireland staff and volunteers have a variety of levels of contact with children and young people engaging with our various services across the country. This ranges from minimal contact to one to one working in our assessment service. As well as volunteers, Dyslexia Ireland employs over 150 staff nationwide.

Dyslexia Ireland agrees that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.

- We will fully comply with our obligations under the Children First Act 2017 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children, in line with our Child Protection Policy.
- We will fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child safeguarding matters.
- We actively promote safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to children and to protect workers from any necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect.
- We will fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

Dyslexia Ireland believes that the safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. We aim to ensure that through our interactions the best interest of the child is paramount. Dyslexia Ireland is committed to the safeguarding of children through the following processes:

- Comprehensive recruitment and vetting processes for all staff and volunteers.
- Comprehensive training programmes which staff are required to complete.
- Clearly defined and communicated standards of service provision.

- A detailed Child Protection Policy is in place, which includes training requirements, a Code of Conduct and procedures for dealing with child protection concerns or reports.

Risk Assessment

Dyslexia Ireland management has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Taking the definition of Harm in relation to a child as: "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 sexual abuse of the child". The latest risk assessment was done on April 28, 2026, by the CEO in consultation with the management team. Below is a list of the areas of potential risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks. All services manage risks by following agreed organisational policies and procedures; the list below is an amalgamation of procedures in place across the organisation.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Child may be subject to harm from staff member or volunteer	● Comprehensive recruitment and vetting procedures are in place. ● Code of conduct is in place for all staff. ● All staff and volunteers must complete, and keep up to date, Tusla's e-learning module in relation to the Children First Act 2015. Site specific mechanisms are also in place. ● One to one work is done only where necessary and in rooms with clear viewing panels or an open door.
2	Child may be subject to harm from other children while accessing our services.	● Low child to staff ratios are in place to ensure adequate supervision. ● There are clear boundaries for children using our services, and an anti-bullying policy is in place.
3	Delay in making referrals to Tusla	All staff and regular volunteers are trained and supported to ensure they can act promptly and without delay in contacting the Designated Liaison Person, a Mandated Person or Tusla when they deem a referral may be required.
4	A child makes a disclosure	All staff and regular volunteers know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person, a Mandated Person or directly to Tusla.
5	A suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of staff	All staff and regular volunteers know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person, a Mandated Person or directly to Tusla.
6	Children may be witness to / at risk due to domestic violence in the home	Child protection policy should be followed, and referral made to Tusla and/or An Garda Síochana, as appropriate.

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*. 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/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- 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;

All procedures listed are available upon request (and detailed in our Child Protection Policy).

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 April 2027 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  for Dyslexia Ireland

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For queries, please contact Rosie Bissett, CEO, the Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015, and the Designated Liaison Person, at ceo@dyslexia.ie or 01 8776001.