



# CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT INCLUDING CHILD RISK ASSESSMENT



## THE IRISH PILGRIMAGE TRUST

CHARITY REVENUE NUMBER CHY5992  
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 20009953

Date	Version	Description	Author	Approved
16 Sep 2022	1.0	Child Safeguarding Statement including Child Risk Assessment	B Connolly	11 June 2022

### Objects of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust:

*We bring people with additional needs on pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes and on holiday in Ireland and we fundraise to cover their costs*

# NOTES:



# The Irish Pilgrimage Trust

## Child Safeguarding Statement

### **Introduction:**

As defined in and required by the Children First Act 2015, the Trust has prepared this written statement specifying the service we provide and the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure as far as practicable, that a child, while availing of our service, is safe from harm.

### **Objects of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust:**

*We bring people with additional needs on pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes and on holiday in Ireland and we fundraise to cover their costs*

### **1. Name of Service being provided**

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust offers volunteer supported independent holidays to young people with special needs in Ireland and in Lourdes, France. The young people attend these holidays without their parents/guardians and enjoy the experience of having an independent holiday but with caring support of volunteer carers.

### **2. Nature of service and principles to safeguarding children from harm**

All volunteer carers are required to read and follow the Trust Code of Practice which is reviewed and updated (if required) every three years. Volunteer carers are also required to read and follow the Trust Safeguarding policy which is reviewed and updated (if required) every year. All volunteer carers are vetted and undergo safeguarding training.

### 3. Child Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>
1.	Risk of harm to a child while in the care of our service.	Children are supervised at all times while in our service and there must be a minimum of 2 volunteers with a child. An adult carer will never be alone with a child. All activities that take place are group activities. All staff and volunteers undergo safeguarding and other training prior to working with children in our service
2.	Those that work with children are unsafe to do so	All staff and volunteer carers are vetted and undergo safeguarding training prior to any involvement with children under the care of our service. Volunteer carers must supply names of two referees who can provide a character reference for them.
3.	Those that work with children behave inappropriately towards them.	All staff and volunteer carers are vetted and undergo safeguarding training prior to any involvement with children under the care of our service. Volunteer carers must supply names of two referees who can provide a character reference for them.
4.	Children exhibit inappropriate sexual behaviour	Groups follow the Trust Room Sharing Policy as outlined in section 30 of the Trust Safeguarding Policy. If the child is sharing a room with another child, they are moved to a single room for the remainder of the holiday under the supervision of 2 volunteer carers. A report is made by the group leader to the Designated Liaison Person who will report to Tusla as per guidelines in section seven and ten of the Trust Safeguarding Policy.
5.	Children access inappropriate sites on the internet while in the care of our service.	Families and their children are required to follow the Trust Social Media Policy as outlined in Section 27 of the Trust Safeguarding Policy which restricts the use of devices to access internet while in the care of our service.
6.	Children who use our service do not understand the roles and responsibilities in place to encourage positive behaviour.	Volunteer carers usually the group leader and the group nurse, visit the families prior to the holiday and our safeguarding guidelines are outlined to parents/guardians and to children before the holiday commences.
7.	Volunteers fail to understand the procedure to follow when reporting a disclosure made while in the care of our service or any other safeguarding concerns.	All volunteer carers are vetted and must undergo safeguarding training annually. Volunteers will also have read and understood our Trust Safeguarding Policy and are issued with a list of Safeguarding Guidelines to follow. Safeguarding is always on the agenda at board and national meetings.

#### **4. Procedures**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015; the Children First; National Guidance, 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
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures listed are available in the Trust Safeguarding Policy and the Trust Code of Practice.

#### **5. Implementation**

We recognise 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 at the AGM of the Board of Trustees or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Trust Chairperson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_