

## Child Safeguarding Statement

### Who we are:

The aim of 'Biodiversity in Schools' is to teach young people all across Ireland about biodiversity and get them actively involved in nature conservation.

### Services being provided:

'Biodiversity in Schools' works with young people across Ireland. We provide educational workshops to preschools, primary schools and secondary schools as well as in other settings such as festivals, museums and libraries. We also provide a wide range of resources for the classroom as well as the school garden; from posters and worksheets to bird boxes and outdoor classrooms.

### Principles to safeguard children from harm:

'Biodiversity in Schools' operates according to the key principle that the welfare of children is of paramount importance and is committed to ensuring, so far as is possible, that children are protected from harm while in the company of Biodiversity in Schools staff or contractors representing 'Biodiversity in Schools'. In order to foster a culture of safety that promotes the welfare and protection of children, 'Biodiversity in Schools' has put in place a standard reporting procedure for dealing with disclosures, concerns or allegations of child abuse. The safety and well-being of the child must take always priority. 'Biodiversity in Schools' undertakes to fulfil its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and to adhere to the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children.

### Risk Assessment:

'Biodiversity in Schools' has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk of harm	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1.	Unsanctioned recirculation of photographs featuring children, without parental consent	Individuals working on behalf of 'Biodiversity in Schools' are instructed to not use cameras while working with children. If arrangements have been made with the school whereby parental consent has already been granted to the school 'Biodiversity in Schools' may take photographs of workshops in action although never where individual children are identifiable.
2.	Inability to properly recognise 'harm'	'Biodiversity in Schools' will ensure all individuals working for or on behalf of 'Biodiversity in Schools' will complete Tusla's 'Children First E-Learning Programme'.
3.	Incident or inappropriate behaviour	All staff are Garda vetted, have completed Tusla's 'Children First E-Learning Programme', have had in-school training and mentoring and have signed a MOU outlining important child protection issues.
4.	Inadequate supervision, injury	Biodiversity in Schools works closely with the class teachers to ensure we are at all times compliant with the rules set out by the school in terms of supervision on and off school grounds and at no time are schools allowed to leave 'Biodiversity in Schools' staff alone with children.

#### 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 services:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against a staff member or contractor representing 'Biodiversity in Schools' of a child availing of our services.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff/ contractors.
- 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.

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 on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



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**Caitriona McCabe**

**Designated Liaison Person**

Biodiversity in Schools

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**Mark Nolan**

**Deputy Designated Liaison Person**

Biodiversity in Schools

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