



# Child Safeguarding Statement (1/2)

June 28th 2019

## 1. Name of service being provided

MoLI - The Museum of Literature Ireland

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

An outline of our service, what we do, and our commitment to safeguard children.

Our vision is to create the world’s most significant literary museum, bringing visitors on an inspiring journey through Irish writing, and encouraging them to explore their own creative potential.

MoLI - The Museum of Literature Ireland is committed to providing a safe, creative and enjoyable environment, where children of all abilities can engage in the museum and learning programme, where the welfare of the young person is paramount.

Every year, thousands of young people will enjoy the learning opportunities provided by MoLI, visiting with family and friends, or as part of an organised group.

We provide different services to young people throughout our museum and gardens; as visitors to the exhibition spaces, our cafe and gardens, as participants of family events, and creative participants in group workshops in our learning room and throughout MoLI.

Our two guiding principles when working with children are Creativity and Goodwill, which are derived from MoLI’s 6 core values.

- » **Creativity** - The raw energy of creativity is transformative: we believe that all members of our society should be empowered to harness their creative potential.
- » **Goodwill** - We endeavour to treat our staff, visitors and partners with unfailing good humour, honesty and goodwill.

We expect everyone working with children in a paid or voluntary capacity for MoLI to take every possible precaution to avoid situations that could be misinterpreted and/or a breach of either the Child Protection Policy or Health and Safety Policy.

## 3. Risk assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm 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 Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<b>Access to Children</b>	All MoLI staff and volunteers are subject to a comprehensive screening process, which includes an application form, interview, reference check and Garda vetting. Followed by staff and volunteer induction/ training and supervision, code of behaviour for staff.
<b>Risk of Harm, including Risk of Bullying</b>	Per the Children First Act 2015, “harm” means, in relation to a child— (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 circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.  All MoLI staff and volunteers are trained in child protection and aware of their obligations in reporting a child protection complaint or concern. We have a DLP and Deputy DLP in place.
<b>Use of Images of Children</b>	Written permission sought in advance from parents and/or schools for use of children’s images in publications and online.
<b>Offsite Programmes</b>	MoLI will participate in programmes at external locations with and/or with partner organisations with due regard to child safeguarding.
<b>Recording and Sharing Information</b>	All records pertaining to child safeguarding complaints or concerns are held securely and shared only on a “need to know” basis.



## Child Safeguarding Statement (2/2)

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<b>Ratios</b>	For primary school workshops, the ratio should be not more than 8:1. The minimum adult/young person ratio in any group should ideally be one adult per group of eight young people, plus one other adult, and allowing an additional adult for each group of eight thereafter. Safety, ability/disability of young people and the nature and/or location of the activities being undertaken may require that the 8:1 ratio be lowered considerably.
<b>One-to-One Working</b>	MoLI programmes always involve more than one adult being present or at least in sight or hearing of others. A minimum of two adults should be present at all times. No unsupervised access of young people with other adults.
<b>Appropriate Physical Contact</b>	Physical touch should only occur when it is appropriate to the age/development of the child and in response to particular needs of the child. There will be instances when physical contact is unavoidable and in fact necessary, e.g. preventing injury.
<b>Safe Use of Internet/Social Media</b>	There is no unsupervised access to wireless internet (wifi) connection and/or computer network by children during workshops. Mobile phones are not to be used during workshops unless absolutely necessary. The content of the MoLI website and social media accounts are appropriate for children.

### 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 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 upon request.*

### 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 in **June 2021**, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:

### Chairperson,

MoLI, Museum of Literature Ireland.

### For queries, please contact:

Mark O'Neill, Head of Operations at MoLI  
Designated Liaison Person, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.