

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT OF OPEN SPECTRUM CLG

OPEN SPECTRUM provides extra-curricular activities for children up to the age of 18 who are on the autistic spectrum. Our volunteer-led service is designed around the needs of children and we comply with all national legislation and guidelines to promote the safety and well-being of our participants.

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.

1. PHYSICAL INJURY Premises are inspected by our Health and Safety Officer. Parent/guardian is on site or within reach by phone. First Aid kit is with parent coordinator on site. In case of serious injury, coach will call emergency services.
- 2 FIRE Fire safety standards and drill have been checked and shared with coach by Health and Safety Officer. Coach is responsible for evacuation.

3. RISK OF DISTRESS TO PARTICIPANT CAUSED BY ANOTHER PARTICIPANT

All participants have subscribed to the OS Code of Conduct. Parent/guardian is on site or within reach by phone. If agreement is not reached, participant accused of causing distress may be asked by coach to withdraw from activity.

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4. RISK OF DISTRESS TO PARTICIPANT CAUSED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN Parents/guardians have subscribed to the OS Code of Conduct. If agreement to desist is not reached between parent and coach, parent accused of causing distress may be asked by coach to withdraw from activity.

5 RISK OF FLIGHT

Premises are inspected by Health and Safety Officer.. Appropriate coach/participant ratios are maintained. Parent is on site or easily reachable by phone.

6. RISK OF CONTRACTING COVID 19

Open Spectrum adheres to all national legislation and guidelines regarding the spread of Covid 19.

7 RISK OF ABUSE OR EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR BY COACH/VOLUNTEER

Open Spectrum coaches and volunteers are Garda Vetted and subscribe to the Open Spectrum Code of Behaviour for Open Spectrum coaches.

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."

2. Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of coaches and volunteers to work with our children.
3. Procedure for the provision of and access to training and information regarding the safeguarding of children including the identification of occurrence of harm.
4. Procedure for the reporting of serious concerns regarding the welfare of children to Tusla.
5. Procedure for maintaining a list of persons working or volunteering with Open Spectrum who are mandated persons.
6. Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

ALL PROCEDURES LISTED ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

IMPLEMENTATION

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Open Spectrum CLG 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 March 1st, 2022 or as soon as is practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Helen Norris has been designated by Open Spectrum CLG as the first point of contact for any issues which arise in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement and she can be contacted in complete confidence at bellsnorris@gmail.com

Signed: Victoria White, Chairperson, Open Spectrum CLG Email: *Victoria White*
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