

## 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 for each activity are inspected by the Parent Co-ordinator in charge of the activity. Each child's parent/guardian is on site or within reach by phone during the activity. A First Aid Kit is with the Parent Co-ordinator on site. In case of serious injury, the coach will call emergency services.
2. Fire safety standards and drill have been checked and shared with the coach by the Parent Co-ordinator of each activity. The 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. The Parent/Guardian of each child is on site or within reach by phone. If agreement is not reached, the participants accused of causing distress may be asked by the coach to withdraw from the activity.
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, the parent accused of causing distress may be asked by the coach to withdraw from the activity.
5. **RISK OF FLIGHT:** Premises of each activity are inspected by the Parent Co-ordinator of the activity. Appropriate coach:participant ratios are maintained. Parents/guardians are on site or easily reachable by phone.
6. **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."

1. Procedure for the provision of and access to training and information regarding the safeguarding of children including the identification of occurrence of harm.
2. Procedure for the reporting of serious concerns regarding the welfare of children to Tusla.

3. Procedure for maintaining a list of persons working or volunteering with Open Spectrum who are mandated persons.
4. 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 April 1st 2025 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](mailto:bellsnorris@gmail.com)

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*Victoria White*