

THE MICHAEL CUSACK CENTRE, THE BURREN, Co. CLARE

Child Safeguarding Statement

THE RELEVANT PERSON FOR REPORTING CONCERNS ABOUT CHILD SAFETY IS:

TIMOTHY MADDEN, MANAGER, MICHAEL CUSACK CENTRE, Tel: (065) 708 9944.

The Michael Cusack Centre is a cultural visitor centre open to the public, located near Carron, Co. Clare. It has a staff team of up to six employees. The Manager is Timothy Madden; telephone (065) 708 9944.

Children usually visit the Centre in supervised groups from their schools, or they are accompanied by appropriate adults such as family members and friends.

In accordance with the Children First Act, 2015, organisations are required to ensure children are safe from harm whilst availing of their services and organisations are required to display a Child Safeguarding Statement.

Definition of ‘Harm’ as set out in Children First Act, 2015:

- (a) Assault, ill-treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect a child’s health, development or welfare, or....
- (b) The sexual abuse of a child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance; or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances.

Basic Principles of The Michael Cusack Centre with regard to Child Welfare:

Staff must ensure that all children always feel welcome, safe and free from discrimination whilst visiting the Michael Cusack Centre. We believe it is the responsibility of adults to ensure that all children are safe from harm at all times. All children will be equally protected from harm whilst visiting the Centre, regardless of their cultural background, their race, their ability, their ethnicity, their religion, their gender or their gender identity, or their sexual orientation.

RISKS IDENTIFIED:

	Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act, 2015) of a child by a member of staff or volunteer from things they have done (e.g. hurt a child) or things they have failed to do (e.g. failed to report a concern about a child).
	Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act, 2015) caused by a lack of supervision.
	Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act, 2015) by a visitor to the Centre.
	Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act, 2015) by another child at the Centre.
	Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act, 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/stranger/other child/ whilst on an outing from the Centre, e.g. on a walk in the adjacent farmlands.
	Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act, 2015) through unauthorized photography or postings to the internet and social media.

MANAGING RISKS:

The following Procedures are adhered to in order to minimize the above risks of harm to children whilst they visit the Michael Cusack Centre:

Procedure for safe recruitment of staff:

All staff are Garda vetted. Garda vetting needs to be repeated every three years for each member of staff.

Procedure for provision of training:

All staff are to complete Introduction to Children First e-learning programme run by Tusla, and to repeat it every three years.

Procedure for staff who are under investigation, facing an allegation or who are suspected of harming a child:

Any member of staff who is facing an allegation or is suspected of causing harm to a child will remain off the premises until Tusla have carried out an investigation.

Procedure for Reporting Child Welfare Concerns:

Staff should report any concern about harm to a child to Tim Madden, the Relevant Person in respect of this Child Safeguarding Statement. Tim's contact details are at the top of the document.

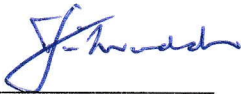
Procedure for appointing a Mandated Person:

This document will be amended in the event of a Mandated Person joining the staff team. A Mandated Person could be a qualified social worker, or other key professionals working with children in the health, education or legal professions. This statement would be amended to name the Mandated Person as the person responsible for ensuring the correct reporting and handling of any child welfare reports or concerns. There are currently no Mandated Persons on the staff team.

Implementation:

We recognize that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm whilst availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be kept under review and will be re-issued on at least an annual basis, or whenever there has been a material change to any matter that the statement refers.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

28th March 2023.