



ECO-UNESCO Child Safeguarding Statement

Description of services being provided:

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation affiliated to the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA).

ECO-UNESCO's aims are:

- to raise environmental awareness, understanding and knowledge of the environment among young people
- to promote the protection and conservation of the environment
- to promote the personal development of young people through practical environmental projects and activities.
- to promote the ideals of UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO provides a wide range of programmes and services, which include:

Environmental Youth Programmes

ECO-UNESCO develops and runs programmes for young people on a broad range of environmental issues through schools, youth organisations, community groups or local authorities.

These programmes include: environmental events and activities, environmental workshops, ECO-Youth Choices and Youth for Sustainable Development Peer Education Programmes.

Training Programmes

ECO-UNESCO develops and runs training programmes for young people, adults, and trainers within non-formal and formal education, providing a specialist approach to working with young people.

These programmes include: short training courses on a wide range of issues related to sustainable development and the environment and QQI accredited courses.

Awards

ECO-UNESCO recognises and rewards the work of young people in environmental protection through action projects, through our annual Young Environmentalist Awards programme.

Education Resources

ECO-UNESCO produces environmental education resources including publications, online workshops, and posters for primary and secondary school teachers, youth groups and community groups.

Risk assessment

ECO-UNESCO has carried out an assessment of potential of risk of harm to a child/young person while availing of our services. The areas of risk and the procedures identified to address these areas have been identified – (See ECO-UNESCO Child Safeguarding Statement Risk Assessment 2023).

Areas of Risk

1. Engagement with young people
2. Reporting procedures
3. Recruitment and Selection
4. Information, Communication and Training
5. Allegations in relation to harm
6. Online delivery of workshops and events

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*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children and young people while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers/interns of a child availing of our service. This is covered in detail in our Child Protection Policy
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children and young people. This is covered in detail in our Recruitment Policy and Child Protection Policy
- Procedure for the provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm. This information is contained in our Child Protection policy and is covered in Child Protection training and the Tusla E-Learning module, which all staff are required to complete
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla. ECO-UNESCO's reporting procedures are contained in detail in our Child Protection Policy
- All mandated persons working in the organisation who have a legal responsibility under the Children First Act 2015 have been informed in writing of their responsibilities and have acknowledged that responsibility. A list of mandated persons is managed by the office manager
- ECO-UNESCO Child Protection Policy sets out the procedures when engaging with young people online
- Parental consent forms are required when people under 18 years of age attend interactive events

All procedures listed are available on request.

Implementation

ECO-UNESCO recognises that implementation is an on-going process. We are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children and young people safe from harm while using our services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed before June 2026, 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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