

Ballaghaderreen GAA Club's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy



Ballaghaderreen Gaelic Athletic Association is a sports club catering for children in age groups from under six to minor level (under eighteen).

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Club Executive has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Club Executive has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Children's First as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Dermot Dillon
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) Pat O'Grady
- 4 The Club Executive recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of club life and must be reflected in all of the club's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the club will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The club will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect volunteers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The club will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any child with a special vulnerability.

- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any club member who is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act or circumstance in respect of a child playing with the club, the club adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Children's First and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of coaches, volunteers etc and their suitability to work with children, the club adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting circulars from the GAA.

- In relation to the provision of information to volunteers in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the club-
 - Has provided each coach with a copy of the club's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new coaches are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all coaches avail of relevant coach training
 - Encourages relevant club officers to avail of relevant training
 - The Club Recording Secretary maintains records in the monthly minutes of all club member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, the club will adhere to the procedures & reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this club the Executive has appointed the above named DLP (Dermot Dillon) as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Executive has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while participating in club activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the club's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to these procedures.
- 6 This statement has been published on the club's website and has been provided to all underage coaches and minuted at an Executive meeting. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.
- 7 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually in January or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Club Executive on 20th of February 2018.

Signed: Dermot Dillon
Chairperson of Ballaghaderreen GAA

Signed: Andrew Durkin
Secretary of Ballaghaderreen GAA