



Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of Centre: Portmarnock Sports and Leisure Centre

The PSLC prides itself on creating a friendly atmosphere with a warm welcome for all our members and visitors. Our facilities include a gym that boasts state of the art cardiovascular and weights equipment. Fitness programmes are developed for the individual as well as a full timetable of classes. We also have a 25m swimming pool that has a mixture of public hours, swimming lessons for all ages and abilities and is hired out to local groups. As well as these amenities, there are squash courts, studios, a large multi-functional sports hall, outdoor all weather pitches and courts, a bar and bistro and a large function room.

At the PSLC we are committed to providing a safe environment for children and young people. Children's welfare and safety is our priority. 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 PSLC committee and management have agreed the following child Safety Statement. Copies of our Child Protection Policy are available from Aoife Gibbons, our Designated Person for Child Protection.

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.

It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk.

"Harm" is, defined by the Children First Act 2015, as assault, ill treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is seriously likely to affect the child's health, development or welfare, or, sexual abuse of the child. Harm can be caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances or otherwise.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Changing areas. Children over 7 years of age must change in same sex changing rooms in communal areas. Often large numbers of unaccompanied children in changing areas without supervision. Members of the public using facilities are also free to use changing areas. There are open showers in the mens' changing area. Users may often shower naked in these.	Where possible, changing rooms have been closed to the public when schools have requested this. (generally during school hours) During other lessons we encourage parents to attend to children in changing rooms of same sex. Plans are in progress to upgrade and mend the existing changing facilities to minimise risk to young people.
2	Poolside sauna allows public to be in close proximity to children only lessons.	Sauna to remain closed during swimming lessons. Managed by lifeguards.
3	PSLC Swimming lessons where large groups of unaccompanied children are poolside with teachers.	Teachers all garda vetted. Teachers generally teach from pool deck. If they enter the water to teach they follow safety guidelines.
4	Non PSLC Swimming lessons. Teachers are working with large groups of unaccompanied children.	Hirers are asked to provide evidence that all those working with children are garda vetted.
5	Private lessons: teachers are working in water with unaccompanied children and often when pool is closed to public so no	Only those employed by the PSLC are allowed to teach.

	lifeguard will be in attendance.	
6	Unaccompanied children in open areas of the building. (Including bar, balcony, lift, corridors, waiting areas, pitches and courts.)	Children (whether members or not) are not allowed to be in the unattended without a specific purpose. Failure to prove that they have a specific purpose can result in them being asked to leave the premises. Children to be aware of the club children's officer and what to do in cases of concern.
7	Holiday camps. Large groups of children with leaders in a variety of areas in the building and undertaking many tasks. Children can be alone or in small groups with leaders and have a close relationship with them. Younger children can look to leaders for affection. Leaders help children change if required and change with them for swimming in the communal areas.	All camp leaders are garda vetted. All camp leaders are trained in our child protection policy and trained to have limited physical contact with children. Any concerns raised during camp are discussed on a daily basis in group or individual meetings where appropriate. Parents and guardians to be contacted where appropriate. They will only help children get changed for swimming if asked for help by the child or needed due to age of the child. Leaders to arrange to change in lifeguard changing area if possible or before their group go into changing rooms.
8	In the gym, users tend to have mobile phones for music which can be used for photography of young gym users. Large glass windows can be used to observe young gym users.	Notices for no photography are displayed. Staff to be constantly aware of this. Staff training also to ensure they are vigilant of people looking in and to deal with these situations as they arise or call security.

1. 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 while they are availing of our service:

- Reporting procedure for dealing with disclosure, concerns or allegations of abuse, how to make a report and who can make a report, how to handle a report of abuse and to handle a retrospective disclosure.
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

2. Implementation

In undertaking this risk assessment, the BOM has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent. This risk assessment has been completed by the BOM on March 6th 2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the Club's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

For queries, please contact Aoife Gibbons, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.