



## **Leave No Trace Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement**

### **1. Name of service being provided**

Leave No Trace is an Outdoor Ethics Education Programme designed to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships. Leave No Trace Ireland operates three school programmes for children aged 6-12 which provides a fun and engaging way to learn about Ireland's natural environment and the Leave No Trace message through hands-on experiential learning.

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 Management and Board of Leave No Trace Ireland have agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- (AS) is acronym for the Authorised Signatory. This individual is mandated within Leave No Trace Ireland to oversee all matters regarding Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons. This role lies with the Training Administrator, **Eithne Larkin and the Manager, Maura Kiely**.
- (ICPVPO) The Independent Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons Officer, **Emma Fortune**, offers independent advice to Board of Leave No Trace Ireland. They also sit on the Vetting Advisory Committee.
- The Vetting Advisory Committee is the group who oversee all vetting applications and queries. The Authorised Signatories, The Independent Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons Officer and **Director of Corporate Governance (Fiona Hannon)** sit on this group.

### **2. Nature of the Organisation and Principles to Safeguard Children from harm**

As an organisation, Leave No Trace Ireland is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people who participate in the Leave No Trace programme, and to ensuring they are safeguarded from harm. All Leave No Trace Ireland staff is appropriately vetted by the organisation and if in the Republic of Ireland, Garda vetted or if operating in Northern Ireland, vetted through the Northern Ireland Sports Forum. Towards ensuring that the individuals (Trainers) and organisations (Leave No Trace Ireland Members) that deliver the Leave No Trace programmes and Leave No Trace Ireland Staff and Volunteers are aware of their responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015, Leave No Trace Ireland has produced its own Safeguarding Policy.

In our Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons Policy and Vetting Policy documents contained within the Leave No Trace Ireland Governance Handbook, the organisation provides information and best practice in relation to the following:

- Suspecting abuse
- Dealing with a disclosure
- Reporting abuse
- Leave No Trace Ireland's Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse
- Codes of Behaviour when carrying out duties associated with Leave No Trace Ireland

These policies outline Leave No Trace Ireland's safeguarding and Child Protection commitments in relation to the recruitment of Leave No Trace Ireland Staff and volunteers. Leave No Trace Ireland clearly outlines the practice and procedures in place for the process of becoming a Leave No Trace Trainer including mandatory training and vetting.

### **3. Leave No Trace Ireland: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

#### **List of Leave No Trace Ireland's activities**

Leave No Trace Ireland operates three school programmes for children aged 6-12. These include

1. Leave No Trace Champions Programme
2. Marine Explorers Programme
3. River Explorers Programme

Leave No Trace Ireland have undertaken a risk assessment surrounding its activities which are outlined in the Risk Register.

#### **4. Procedures**

Leave No Trace Ireland's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tulsa'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 that we may come into contact with, and to ensure as far as possible that children undertaking Leave No Trace Ireland programmes are safe from harm.

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse against Leave No Trace Ireland staff/volunteers of a Young Person participating in a Leave No Trace programme is outlined in the Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons Policy.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of Leave No Trace Ireland Staff is outlined in the Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons Policy and Vetting Policy.
- Procedure for the selection and training requirements of Leave No Trace Ireland Trainers including vetting requirements is set out in Leave No Trace Ireland's Governance Handbook and Trainer Guidelines.
- All Leave No Trace Ireland Staff must attend Child Safeguarding Training.

- All Leave No Trace Ireland Trainers are informed about Leave No Trace Ireland's Safeguarding Statement, Trainer Guidelines, Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons Policy and Vetting Policy which is a mandatory part of becoming a Leave No Trace Trainer.
- The Procedure for the reporting of Child Protection concerns is outlined in Leave No Trace Ireland's Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons Policy and Vetting Policy.
- List of all Leave No Trace Ireland's Mandated persons is outlined in Vetting Policy.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

## **5. Implementation**

Leave No Trace Ireland recognises that implementation is an ongoing process and as such is committed to the implementation of this Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children we come into contact with safe from harm and to ensure that in as far as is possible young people participating in the Leave No Trace programme are safe from harm. This Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Board, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Leave No Trace Ireland

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

CEO, Leave No Trace Ireland

Leave No Trace Ireland

Castlebar Street

Westport

Co. Mayo

F28 KD63

Tel: 01 905 9009

E-mail: [info@leavenotraceireland.org](mailto:info@leavenotraceireland.org)