

## Child Safeguarding Statement



Bus Éireann in accordance with our legislative requirements under the Children First Act 2015 (Schedule 1) has developed this Child Safeguarding Statement. This statement is binding to all BÉ staff, and includes apprentices', interns, students on work placement, contractors, and their nominated employees/drivers.

Bus Éireann transports thousands of children nationwide every day on public bus and school transport services and keeping our customers safe, especially children, is a core element of our culture. This extends to children availing of our services, on our premises and specific off-site locations.

Keeping children safe while in our care is central to the ethos of Bus Éireann; their welfare and safety is of paramount importance to us. We promote an environment where children are welcomed, respected, cared for and, as far as practicable, protected from harm. Bus Éireann staff, contractors and their employees have a duty and responsibility to safeguard children and support their general welfare, development, and safety, promoting the protection of children in line with our **Child Safeguarding Policy**. As a matter of policy, they must be alert to the possibility of child abuse/harm and of their obligation to convey any concerns to a Designated Liaison Person (DLP), who will treat such concerns in an appropriate manner in accordance with legislative requirements.

Bus Éireann has adopted safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents to children. The risk to children when using our services or working within our organisation will be assessed on a continuous basis and this process will form part of Bus Éireann's overall Risk Assessment.

**Risk Assessment:** Bus Éireann has completed an assessment of the potential risk of harm to children while they avail of our services, on our premises or engaged within our organisation. The risk will be assessed on a continuous basis and this process will form part of Bus Éireann's overall Risk Assessment.

### **Risk Identified:**

- Risk of harm including assault, ill treatment, or neglect of a child.
- Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported.
- Lost or abandoned children.
- Photography, images, videos and/or audio recordings of children.

**Procedures:** Bus Éireann has adopted safe practices and procedures to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents to children. The following procedures are in place to manage risk:

- Display the Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Safeguarding Policy Booklet on our public website.
- Child Safeguarding Policy Booklet is available to all existing Bus Éireann staff via our Bus Éireann Online internal website.
- All existing staff, contractors and their employees will receive a copy of our revised Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Safeguarding Policy Booklet.
- All new employees will be provided with a copy of our Child Safeguarding Policy Booklet.
- Bus Éireann School Bus Drivers will be issued with our Code of Conduct, Child Safeguarding Policy Booklet, and comprehensive Drivers Handbook.
- Bus Éireann School Bus Contractors and their Nominated Drivers will be issued with our Code of Conduct and Child Safeguarding Policy Booklet.
- Procedures for reporting child safeguarding concerns are documented in our Child Safeguarding Policy/Policy Booklet.
- Recruitment process will include Garda Vetting, where applicable.
- Recruitment and Selection process will seek assurance from applicants that there are no known circumstances that would prevent them from working with children and/or vulnerable adults.
- Provision of information regarding Child Safeguarding forms part of Driver Induction Training.
- Consent for photography, images, videos and/or audio recordings of children obtained via our **Child Photography/Video Consent Form**.
- Designated Liaison Person (DLP) to maintain awareness and provide support to staff regarding Child Safeguarding principles and best practice.
- Drivers and relevant staff will be required to submit a successfully completed **'Introduction to Children First E-Learning Programme'** Certificate (*awarded online by Tusla*).
- Child Safeguarding Officers have completed Children First, Child Protection Training and Designated Liaison Person Training.

The Chief Executive Officer has authorised the below Designated Liaison Persons to act as liaison with outside agencies and as a resource person for staff. The DLP's can be contacted by email at [childprotection@buseireann.ie](mailto:childprotection@buseireann.ie). The DLP will also fill the role of Child Safeguarding Officer.

- Mr. Gerry Gannon (DLP/Child Safeguarding Officer)
- Ms. Dorothy McGill (DLP/Deputy Child Safeguarding Officer)
- Ms. Aisling Harte (DLP)

This statement is designed to demonstrate our commitment to the safety and welfare of children on our services/premises/in our care and is intended to reassure parents/guardians/carers of our ongoing dedication to the protection and safeguarding of children.

This Statement will be reviewed every two years or sooner if there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers and/or changes in legislation or national policy.