

REACH SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT



Reach exists to provide support and advice for children with upper limb differences and their families. We carry out this work by providing advice, maintaining social media networking forums and organising events and activities that bring member children and families together.

Purpose and scope of this policy statement

The purpose of this policy statement¹ is to protect from harm children and young people that take part in Reach activities. This includes, but is not restricted to, children with upper limb differences.

The policy and associated procedures apply to anyone working or volunteering for Reach.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in all parts of the UK and Ireland. Summaries of the key legislation and child protection frameworks in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is available from the NSPCC. A summary of the key legislation and child protection frameworks in Ireland is available from Tusla.

Our commitments

We believe that:

- children and young people have the right to feel safe from harm or abuse, regardless of their age, community background, disability, family status, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation or status as a member of the Traveller community;
- everyone who works or volunteers for Reach has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, and to keep them safe; and that
- the welfare of children is paramount and should guide all the work we do and all the decisions we take.

We will seek to keep children safe by upholding the NSPCC's six safeguarding standards:

1 Recruitment, induction and supervision

- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, including all necessary checks;
- appointing a nominated child protection lead² for children and young people and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding;
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently; and
- managing appropriately any allegations against staff or volunteers .

2 Protecting children and young people

¹ The policy statement is based on the sample policy statements provided by the NSPCC and Tusla. It fulfils Reach's obligations under the Children First Act 2015 in Ireland to produce a safeguarding statement. Reach is a provider of relevant services, by virtue of paragraph 5 of Schedule 1 to that Act.

² The 'relevant person' for the purposes of the Children First Act 2015 and the first point of contact for safeguarding issues within Reach for the UK and Ireland.

- valuing, listening to and respecting them and creating an environment where they are comfortable raising any concerns; and
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.

3 Preventing and responding to bullying

- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment; and
- managing appropriately any allegations of bullying from children or young people involved in our activities.

4 Running safe activities and events

- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the appropriate law and regulatory guidance; and
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place and that all members, staff and volunteers understand how to use them.

5 Recording and storing information safely

- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.

6 Sharing information and working with other agencies

- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately.

Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while participating in our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk
1	Children are injured, abused or otherwise harmed at a Branch event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Branch Coordinators to be vetted. • A risk assessment to be produced for all Branch events, shared with Head Office. • Parents to be present and remain responsible for their child(ren) at all times. • Any instructors or contractors hired to have appropriate vetting and training and comply with appropriate adult to child ratios.
2	Children are injured, abused or otherwise harmed at a Branch or National Family weekend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff, Branch Coordinators and Trustees to be vetted. • A risk assessment to be produced for all Family Weekends, dealing with the specific activities

		<p>planned and signed off by the Reach Safeguarding Lead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any instructors or contractors hired to have appropriate vetting and training and comply with appropriate adult to child ratios.
3	Children are injured, abused or otherwise harmed at the Reach Activity Week.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All mentors to be vetted and trained. A risk assessment to be produced for RAW each year, dealing with the specific activities planned and signed off by the Reach Safeguarding Lead. Any instructors or contractors hired to have appropriate vetting and training and comply with appropriate adult to child ratios.
4	Children are subject to online abuse through social media contact with their peers or other contacts they have made through Reach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Reach parent (and in future also a Reach staff member) moderate social media groups set up for each cohort of RAW participants.

Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- Responsibilities of safeguarding leads
- Recognising signs of abuse or neglect
- Reporting and recording concerns
- Adult to child supervision ratios
- Codes of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Behaviour codes for children and young people
- Guidance for Branch activities
- Social media policy
- Safer recruitment, selection and vetting of staff and volunteers
- Anti-bullying
- Managing complaints
- Whistleblowing
- Health and safety

Those highlighted in grey are under currently under review.

Contact details:

- Deborah Bond, Reach Safeguarding Lead and designated Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015: deborahb@reach.org.uk 0845 130 6225
- Julie Detheridge, Reach Trustee Lead for Safeguarding: julied@reach.org.uk 0845 130 6225

Advice is also available from www.nspcc.org.uk and www.tusla.ie



Signed

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Date this policy came into force: 18 April 2020

Last reviewed: April 2020

Next review due: April 2021