ORDER OF MALTA
IRELAND

# Child Safeguarding Statement

## Order of Malta Ireland – The Services we provide

The Order of Malta Ambulance Corps, is a constituent part of Order of Malta Ireland (OMI), a recognised National Volunteer Pre-Hospital Emergency Care (PHECC) Service provider and training establishment. Our senior members, including young people aged 16 to 18 years provide emergency care treatment and community care services throughout the country. Our Cadet members, aged 10 to 16 years, are trained in first aid and provide our services alongside members in our senior units. The activities our dedicated volunteers deliver to children and young people include:

- Community Care Services.
- First Aid and Ambulance Services.
- Nursing Services.
- Training in Pre-hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) approved courses.
- Through our Cadets/Youth Programmes our dedicated Cadet Leaders provide first aid training, achievement programmes and fun activities through weekly meetings. We also provide social activities including days out and overnight trips away for our young people.

## Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child availing of our services. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and a list of the procedures for managing those risks is summarised below.

| | Risks identified | Procedures in place to manage risk identified |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Risk of harm to a child from a volunteer / staff member | Recruitment procedure including Vetting policy.<br>Identifying and Reporting Child Protection & Welfare Concerns to Tusla.<br>Safeguarding Training & Information Procedures for all volunteers and staff<br>Codes of Behaviour.<br>Procedure in the event of allegations of abuse against a member |
| 2. | Risk of harm of a child by a visitor/contractor in the service | Supervision by vetted and trained youth leaders as per organisation's Safeguarding Policy.<br>Guidance re Cadets on Duty. |
| 3. | Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child on outings by a member of staff/volunteer/peer; | Code of Behaviour.<br>Ratios of trained leaders providing supervision to children as per guidance.<br>Working safely with children procedures.<br>Procedure for travelling with cadets. |
| 4. | Risk of harm of bullying of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer | Respect and Dignity Policy.<br>Anti-bullying training for youth leaders. |
| 5. | Risk of harm of a child from unauthorised photography | Social Media Policy.<br>Parental consent prior to publishing any photographs. |
| 6. | Risk of harm of a child from online abuse through social media or internet access | Acceptable Usage Policy.<br>Social Media Policy.<br>Safeguarding policy. |
| 7. | Risk of harm to a child through an online service | Adherence to government guidelines.<br>Internal IT guidance.<br>Parental consent prior to any interactions via ICT for remote meetings etc. |
| 8. | Risk of harm to child availing of our First Aid Services | Medications Policy. Fitness to Practice Policy.<br>Privileging Policy.<br>Code of Behaviour. National Vetting Policy.<br>Identifying and Reporting Child Protection & Welfare Concerns to Tusla.<br>Procedure in the event of allegations of abuse against a member. |

## Our Guiding Principles - safeguarding children from harm.

Every Member of Order of Malta Ireland is expected to observe the following principles.

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of all children, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, ability, race or ethnicity, to dignity and respect, to be kept safe and protected from harm, be treated as individuals, and to be encouraged to reach their full potential.
- Parents have a right to respect and to be consulted and involved in matters that concern their child, balanced with the need to safeguard children from harm.
- We are committed to listening to the voice of the child and ensuring they are consulted in matters that may affect them.
- Ensure policies and procedures are in place to ensure children are safe when availing of our services.

## Our Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements of the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A guide for policy, Procedure and Practice* and also Children (NI) Order 1995. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures are in place.

- Procedure for maintaining a list of persons in Order of Malta Ireland who are mandated persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person for the purposes of the Children First Act 2015.
- Procedure for Implementation, Monitoring & Review.

## Implementation & Review

We recognise the implementation is an ongoing process. Order of Malta Ireland is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying procedures that support our commitment to keep children safe from harm while availing of our services, both as members and users of its services. This statement will be displayed in all our premises and any locations where we provide a service, as well as being available on our website.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 30 August 2028 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

If you have any questions in respect of this statement, please contact our **Relevant Person**, Michael Lynch (contact details below).

**Designated Liaison Persons (DLPs)**

Michael Lynch / Jeanette Wright **087 621 2026** | dlp@orderofmalta.ie

Áine McAnulla / Kevin Moore (NI) **0737 925 7308**| dlp@orderofmalta.ie

A copy of this Child Safeguarding Statement is available upon request or by scanning the QR Code.

Mr Patrick Downes
**Service Provider**

Co-Chairperson of the Board
**Order of Malta Ireland**
St John's House, 32 Clyde Road, Dublin 4, D04 V963

(01) 6430000
23rd September 2026

Mr Michael Lynch
**Relevant Person**

National Safeguarding Manager
**Order of Malta Ireland**
St John's House, 32 Clyde Road
Dublin 4, D04 V963

(01) 6430000
michael.lynch@orderofmalta.ie