

# The Child Safeguarding Statement of the Catholic Institute for Deaf People (CIDP)

This statement has been prepared to comply with the requirements of the *Children First Act 2015*.

## 1 Statement

CIDP is committed to the creation and maintenance of a welcoming, nurturing and safe environment for all children. CIDP supports the physical, spiritual, social, educational and moral development of each young Deaf person so that she or he may take their place in society as a mature person. CIDP operates within a Christian ethos that welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith traditions.

CIDP recognises the right of every child to dignity of life and bodily integrity and is committed to ensuring that she or he is respected, nurtured, cared for and protected. This commitment is binding on all those who work for and on behalf of CIDP.

## 2 Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

CIDP provides the following services to children:

The Boarding Campuses operate under the patronage of the CIDP, to provide care for young Deaf girls and boys of school going age who attend The Holy Family School for the Deaf. We provide a '*home away from home*' environment, where we support the educational, emotional, and social development of the Boarders. Boarders reside with us from Sunday to Friday and Escorts are provided for those who commute long distances on public transport from all four corners of Ireland.

### Safeguarding principles

CIDP endeavours to provide an environment for young Deaf people (persons up to the age of 18 years who have a hearing impairment) that is welcoming, nurturing and safe by:

- Adopting a child centred approach;
- Working in partnership with parents and guardians;
- Choosing carefully those who work with children;
- Ensuring that those who work for and on behalf of CIDP understand what is expected of them in their dealings with children;
- Making proper arrangements for children, on and off the CIDP campus;
- Keeping good records.

### 3 Risk Assessment

CIDP has carried out an assessment of the potential for harm to children who avail of the services it provides. The following lists the identified risks and the practices and procedures in place for managing these risks.

Risk Identified	Practices and procedures in place to manage identified risk  <i>(to be found in Catholic Institute for Deaf People: Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy, 2018; in the Employee Handbook and Operational Policies)</i>
1. Children could be exposed to people who may harm them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe selection and recruitment procedures for those working with children, including vetting</li> </ul>
2. Those who work with children could engage in unsafe work practices or behave inappropriately towards them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Practice for those working with children</li> <li>• Complaints procedures</li> <li>• Appropriate communication with children (including use of social media)</li> </ul>
3. Those working with children could operate in unsafe environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper arrangements for activities involving children</li> </ul>
4. Lack of clarity as to who is responsible for what when it comes to child safeguarding and protection in CIDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roles and responsibilities are clearly laid out in child protection procedures document</li> <li>• Safeguarding training provided to staff who are required to attend</li> </ul>
5. Children availing of CIDP services may not understand what is expected of them in terms of their contact with and behaviour towards each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of behaviour for children</li> <li>• Anti-bullying policy</li> </ul>
6. Concerns that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected may go undetected and unreported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This statement and the accompanying procedures are made known to staff, children and parents/guardians</li> <li>• Safeguarding training provided for staff (as above)</li> </ul>
7. CIDP personnel, whether mandated persons or others, may be unaware of how to report concerns that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting thresholds and procedures are set out in child procedures document and covered in training</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding and Protection Service of the Archdiocese of Dublin available to provide advice, guidance and support</li> <li>• Joint reports will be made by CIDP DLP and Mandated Persons, where appropriate taking account of data protection requirements</li> </ul>
8. Mandated persons may not be aware of their responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of mandated person described in child protection procedures document</li> <li>• Training and information sessions on role of Mandated Persons provided</li> <li>• List of mandated persons will be compiled and kept updated</li> </ul>

## 1.4 Child Protection Procedures

CIDP promptly reports all concerns that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected in accordance with procedures developed in line with the requirements of the:

- *Children First Act 2015,*
- *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017,*
- *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice,*
- *Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.*

A copy of this Child Safeguarding Statement is available on request and online at [www.cidp.ie](http://www.cidp.ie) .

## 5 Implementation

CIDP is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguard Statement and the practices and procedures that support our commitment to keeping children safe from harm while availing of our services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in March 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Chair, Board of CIDP, The Deaf Village, Ratoath Road, Cabra, Dublin 7

For queries please contact: Keith Adams, CEO, CIDP, who is the Relevant Persons under the Children First Act 2015.

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