



REDISCOVERY CENTRE

Child Safeguarding Statement

About us

The Rediscovery Centre is the National Centre for the Circular Economy in Ireland. A creative movement connecting people, ideas and resources to support greener low-carbon living.

As the National Centre for the Circular Economy, we bring together the skills and expertise of artists, scientists, designers and craftspeople united in a common purpose of sustainability. Located in a bespoke demonstration eco-facility, we support four reuse social enterprises: Rediscover Furniture, Rediscover Fashion, Rediscover Paint and Rediscover Cycling. These businesses use unwanted materials for new product development and design demonstrating effective resource efficiency, reuse and low carbon living.

The Rediscovery Centre is an accredited Discover Primary Science and Maths centre. Our education team offer interactive and experiential workshops for primary, secondary, and third level students which cover wide ranging environmental and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) topics. The Centre's translational research activities support national waste prevention and climate action policy and advocate for a more resilient and equitable society.

Vision

The Rediscovery Centre is committed to promoting and facilitating the full participation of children and young people in our work. We aim to create a safe and healthy environment for the young people with whom we work and we are committed at all times to ensuring their safety and welfare.

Liaison/Contact persons

The following staff members have been appointed as relevant persons to liaise with outside agencies, to act as first contact and resource support in addressing any child or young person's protection concerns: Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Sarah Clear and Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ali Knight.

Principles of best practice

The Rediscovery Centre will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children and young people is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015, and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;

- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and to protect staff from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection and welfare matters.

Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. 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 identified risk
1	Risk of harm not being recognised by centre personnel	<p>All staff and volunteers are provided with a copy of the Child Protection and Code of behaviour document</p> <p>All staff and volunteers are requested to undertake the online TUSLA Children First training</p> <p>All staff regularly attend training and any volunteers is also offered the opportunity to take part</p> <p>A database is in place to record all staff and volunteers training</p>
2	Risk of child or young person being harmed in the centre by a staff member or volunteer, by a staff/volunteers from another agency/organisation involved in facilitating an event or activity with children	<p>All Rediscovery centre staff, volunteers as well as those of other agencies/organisations are given a copy of the Rediscovery Centre's Child Protection Policy and Code of Behaviour and are asked to sign a document certifying that they have read it and agree to abide by its contents and to attest that there is no reason they would be considered unsuitable for working with children/young people</p> <p>All staff and volunteers are Garda vetted</p> <p>According to the Rediscovery Centre recruitment process, applicants must supply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information of previous, recent experience, particularly all experience relating to working with children/young people and • the name of two referees who are relevant to the post (not family members). Referees will be asked to complete a standard form and will also be contacted personally <p>The Rediscovery Centre has a code of behaviour for staff, participants and visitors available in three different locations and everybody is required to abide to it.</p> <p>There should be no unnecessary physical contact between an adult and young person although there are times when, for example, placing a hand on a distressed child/young person's shoulder to comfort him/her can be appropriate. Physical contact should only be in response to the needs of the child and should appropriate to the age and the level of development of the child</p>

3	Risk of child or young people being harmed by a visitor to the centre	<p>The centre has an appropriate supervision policy during activities including an appropriate ratio of adults to young people will be put in place for each workshop or event held by the Rediscovery Centre. This ratio will vary depending on the particular event, the age of the participants and relevant dis/abilities or special needs.</p> <p>All teachers/leaders of groups are requested to stay with their group for the entire duration of the activity and for the whole time spent on the premises</p> <p>Children are not allowed on the premises unless accompanied by an adult and must remain under their supervision at all times</p> <p>The Rediscovery Centre will ensure that a clear system of registration and departure of participants is in place at all events</p>
4	Risk of harm due to bullying	<p>The Rediscovery Centre will abide by the anti-bullying policy put in place by The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs</p>
5	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of child or young person in centre	<p>The centre has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children or young people during workshops, breaks, and in respect of specific areas such as toilets</p> <p>The Rediscovery Centre will ensure that a clear system of registration and departure of participants is in place at all events</p> <p>The Rediscovery Centre will make every effort to ensure that during its events, the physical surroundings will be comfortable, fully accessible and appropriate for the work being undertaken and that risk assessment are undertaken and followed for each activities/event</p> <p>Risk assessments for all activities carried out at the centre have been completed and mitigation measures identified</p>
6	Risk of harm in one-on-one situation, i.e. administration of First Aid	<p>While we recognise that sometimes it may be necessary for staff to work on a one-to-one basis with a child or young person, staff/volunteers should not spend excessive amounts of time alone with an individual child/young person. Where an adult needs to meet with a child/young person alone, the door should be left open and another adult informed of the meeting.</p> <p>The Rediscovery Centre will ensure that employees and volunteers never take any young person alone in a car on journeys</p> <p>The Rediscovery Centre has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid</p> <p>The Rediscovery Centre adheres to its Health and Safety Policy</p>
7	Risk of harm to child or young person with Special Education Needs (SEN) who have particular vulnerabilities	<p>When organising workshops and other events, the following information/documentation will be requested by The Rediscovery Centre in relation to each child/young person attending the event/workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contact details for supervising teachers or guardian ○ Medical information where relevant ○ Information relating to any special needs a child or young person may have, e.g. language assistance

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Photo consent forms (organised through participating schools or guardian)
8	Risk of harm caused by member of centre personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	<p>Staff and volunteers are not allowed to use their personal devices for taking pictures of children during activities; when taking photos using an authorized device the children identity must not be identifiable</p> <p>If photos are taken during events for marketing and promotional purposes, consent forms are organized in advance through participating schools or guardian</p>

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children

First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance*, and Tusla'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 while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure to maintain a list of mandated persons
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures listed are available upon request.

No staff members are mandated persons.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

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

Signed:  _____
(Provider)

Provider's name and contact details

The Rediscovery Centre Ltd
Sarah Clear
Education Programme Manager
01-8933801; education@rediscoverycentre.ie

For queries, please contact
Sarah Clear 01 8933801

Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

