TUS

**Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest**

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

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TUS Child Safeguarding Statement 2022 – 2024

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Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (hereafter referred to as TUS) provides higher education in Ireland and is a member institution of the Technological Higher Education Association (THEA). TUS has campuses in Limerick, Athlone Thurles, Clonmel and Ennis.

   TUS offers courses at Level 6 (Higher Certificate) through to Level 10 (PhD) whilst also catering for craft apprentices and adult and continuing education. TUS is to the forefront in ensuring that the region's economy continues to have the requisite array of leading-edge skills demanded by our knowledge-based industries.

2. TUS's Child Safeguarding Statement together with TUS's Child Protection Policy and Procedures outlines our commitment to safeguarding the well-being of all the children and young people with whom it works and interacts with both in person and online. TUS is committed to promoting and facilitating the full participation of students who are under the age of 18. TUS aims to create a safe and healthy environment for the young people with whom it works and interacts as is evidenced by the following:

   - TUS acknowledges that each child has a right to be protected, to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to have their views taken into account;

   - TUS is committed to ensuring that members of staff who work with children and young people follow best practice.

   - TUS has adopted appropriate measures in line with legislative requirements for the vetting of all staff and certain students whose work or study brings them into contact with children.

   - TUS staff who sanction the participation of volunteers in college activities involving children must ensure that volunteers are subject to vetting under the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012-2016.

   - All children, who are not registered students of TUS entering the TUS campuses, are required to be accompanied by a responsible adult (e.g. parent, guardian, teacher, carer, youth worker etc.) while on campus.

   - TUS is committed to mandatory reporting of any and all disclosures of child abuse to TUSLA and/or An Garda Síochána.

- It is the policy of TUS to establish, and routinely review, protocols and procedures for the protection of children, consistent with national legislation, policy and best practice. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in line with the agreed TUS policy review schedule. External advice and expertise (e.g. TUSLA) may be sought as necessary/appropriate.

- This Safeguarding Statement applies to all members of the TUS, who encounter children in the context of classes, tuition, service or activities at TUS or on other premises.

3. Risk Assessment: TUS has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child in TUS. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing those risks.

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to Manage Risk Identified
A. A child is harmed by a TUS staff member	1. All TUS staff are provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Policy and Procedures. 2. All TUS staff will be vetted in accordance with TUS's Garda Vetting policy. 3. TUS have appointed Designated Liaison Person(s) (DLP). 4. Reports will be made to HR and the relevant procedures will be employed.
B. A child discloses harm to a TUS staff member	1. TUS has developed clear policy and procedures for dealing with and reporting disclosures of harm. 2. If any disclosures of harm are made to a TUS staff member, they should contact the DLP as a matter of urgency and seek advice on the necessary steps to take.

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to Manage Risk Identified
C. A visiting child is harmed while on campus	Children are welcome and encouraged to visit TUS campuses, however, precautions are necessary. 1. The visitor(s) accompanying the child is/are solely responsible for any minors (younger than eighteen years of age) brought on to TUS campuses. 2. Any injury of whatever nature and howsoever incurred by those children is the full and sole responsibility of the accompanying visitor/organisation, except where it can be proven beyond all reasonable doubt that any injury is as a result of the negligence of TUS. 3. The accompanying visitor/organisation is responsible for ensuring that the health and welfare of minors are protected on site by ensuring that the supervisor to children ratios for different age groups is adhered to.
D. Research involving children	Research involving children must be approved through the TUS's Research Ethics process prior to the commencement of the work. The main exception to this is in relation to TUS students who undertake work placements in schools (some of their work involves an element of research as well as teaching practice, but this type of research does not usually require Ethics Committee approval). When working with children, the researcher must comply with the TUS's Child Protection Policy and best practice in research.
E. A retrospective disclosure is made	1. The staff member must refer to the TUS policy and procedures for reporting. 2. Report these disclosures to the relevant DLP as a matter of urgency.

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to Manage Risk Identified
F. Use of child images for TUS promotion	*TUS Child Procedures Section 3.9* Care should be taken to ensure that images of children are not included in TUS promotional material or TUS social media sites without the expressed written permission of the parent(s) or guardian(s).
G. General Procedures for Staff <u>or</u> Students working with Children	*TUS Child Procedures Section 3.6 and 3.7*: All staff and students working with children are required to familiarise themselves with the Child Protection Policy and Procedures.
H. Students on placement working with children	*TUS Child Protection Procedures Section 3.7: Specific Procedures for Students working with Children.* Students who work with children and young people, or who are on placement in schools, colleges or with any other bodies providing services to children are subject to the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 to 2016, and it is the responsibility of each student to ensure that they comply with the provisions of the Act.
I. Students under the Age of 18, Staying Away	*TUS Child Protection Procedures Section 3.10:* TUS third level students, who are under 18 and are partaking on 'away-trips' must submit a signed parental / guardian consent form. TUS shall state clearly on this form that these students are only supervised by the nominated senior person (or their adult assistants) in transit to and from the activity and during the actual activity.

4. Our Child Safeguarding Statement, which is available to all staff and students, has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017 and 2019 addendum re: online safety) and TUSLA's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the TUS Child Protection Policy and Procedures support our commitment to safeguard children

    TUS recognises that implementation of the Child Protection Policy is an on-going process. TUS is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our commitment to keep children safe.

    This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in line with the agreed TUS policy review schedule.

Signed:
 (DLP)   _____

Date: ____/__/____