



TUS

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:

Lár Tíre, An tIarthar Láir

Technological University of the Shannon:

Midlands Midwest

TUS Child Safeguarding Statement 2026 - 2028



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TUS 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 of the Technological Universities Association (TUA). 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 at 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) This *TUS Child Safeguarding Statement* together with the *TUS Child Protection Policy*, and *TUS Child Protection 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 disclosures of child abuse to TUSLA and/or An Garda Síochána, as detailed in the TUS Child

Safeguarding Statement and TUS Child Protection Policy.

- 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.

A list of the areas of risk identified and the associated procedures for managing those risks is presented in the following Table.

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to Manage Risk Identified
A. A child is harmed by a TUS staff member.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) All TUS staff are provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Policy and Procedures. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 13.1, Training for TUS Staff Members</i>). 2) TUS staff will be vetted in accordance with TUS Staff Garda Vetting Policy and Procedure. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 7.0, Garda Vetting</i>). 3) TUS has appointed a Designated Liaison Person (DLP). (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 6.0, The TUS Designated Liaison Person</i>). 4) Reports will be made to HR, and the relevant procedures will be employed. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 10.0 and Section 11.0</i>). 5) The <i>TUS Recruitment, Selection and Appointment Policy</i> include best practice in recruitment, including the requirement for Garda Vetting. 6) Relevant personnel with contact details are provided in Appendix 2 of the TUS Child Protection Procedures
B. A child discloses harm to a TUS staff member.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) TUS has developed clear policy and procedures for dealing with and reporting disclosures of harm. (<i>TUS Child Protection Policy and TUS Child Protection Procedures</i>). 2) If any disclosures of harm are made to a TUS staff member, they shall contact the DLP as a matter of urgency and seek advice on the necessary steps to take. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 10.0, The Reporting Framework</i>). 3) The DLP shall take appropriate action on receipt of a report of a child protection concern. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 11, Actions of the DLP on Receipt of Report of Suspected</i>

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to Manage Risk Identified
	<p><i>Child Neglect/Abuse).</i></p> <p>4) The DLP shall maintain a list of Mandated persons (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 6.0, The TUS Designated Liaison Person</i>).</p> <p>5) TUS staff undergo appropriate awareness and training on child protection (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 13.1, Training for TUS Staff Members</i>).</p> <p>6) Relevant personnel with contact details are provided in Appendix 2 of the TUS Child Protection Procedures</p>
<p>C. A visiting child is harmed while on campus.</p>	<p>Children are welcome and encouraged to visit TUS campuses. However:</p> <p>1) The visitor(s) accompanying the child is/are responsible for any children (younger than eighteen years of age) brought on to TUS campuses;</p> <p>2) The accompanying visitor/organisation is responsible for ensuring that the welfare of minors is protected on-site by ensuring that the appropriate supervisor to children ratios for different age groups is adhered to;</p> <p><i>(TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 8.7 Responsibility of Schools/External Parties for Child Protection and Welfare When Visiting TUS and Section 8.8, Responsibility of Third Parties for Child Welfare when Renting/Leasing TUS Sporting and other Facilities).</i></p> <p>3) Relevant personnel with contact details are provided in Appendix 2 of the TUS Child Protection Procedures.</p>

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to Manage Risk Identified
D. Research involving children.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Research involving children must be approved through the TUS's Research Ethics processes prior to the commencement of the work. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 9.3, Research Activities Involving Children</i>). 2) When working with children, the researcher must comply with the TUS Child Protection Policy and TUS Child Protection Procedures. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 9.3, Research Activities Involving Children</i>).
E. A retrospective disclosure is made.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The staff member must refer to the <i>TUS Child Protection Policy</i> and <i>TUS Child Protection Procedures</i>, including the Reporting Framework (Section 10) and the Standard and Mandated Reporting Procedures (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 10.4, Standard Reporting Procedure and Section 10.5, Mandated Reporting Procedure, respectively</i>). 2) The DLP shall take appropriate action on receipt of a report of a child protection concern. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 11, Actions of the DLP on Receipt of Report of Suspected Child Neglect/Abuse</i>). 3) The staff member shall report disclosures to the DLP as a matter of urgency.
F. Use of child images for TUS promotion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 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). It is acknowledged that under Data Protection Commission (DPC) guidance, individuals aged 16 and above may consent to the use of their own personal data. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 9.6, TUS Promotion Activities</i>).

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to Manage Risk Identified
<p>G. Procedures for Staff <u>or</u> Students working with Children</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) All staff and students working with children are required to familiarise themselves with the Child Protection Policy and Procedures. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 8.4, Responsibility of Members of TUS Community</i>). 2) All applicable staff in TUS who carry out relevant work with children, are obliged to undergo Garda Vetting, in accordance with the <i>TUS Staff Garda Vetting Policy</i>. (TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 7.0). 3) All students whose studies require them to work with children will be obliged to undergo Garda Vetting, in accordance with the <i>TUS Student Garda Vetting Policy and Procedure</i>. (TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 7.0). 4) All staff and students working with children shall follow the practices and procedures for working safely with Children. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 9, TUS Practices and Procedures for Child Protection and Section 10.0, The Reporting Framework and Section 11.0 Actions of the DLP on Receipt of Report of Suspected Child Neglect/Abuse 22</i>). 5) All staff working with Children must ensure the safest possible practices through the conduction of appropriate risk assessments for activity that involves children. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 9.3, Specific Practices for Staff in Working Safely with Children</i>). 6) All staff working with Children undergo Child Protection training (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 13.1, Training for TUS Staff Members</i>). 7) Relevant personnel with contact details are provided in Appendix 2 of the TUS Child Protection Procedures.

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to Manage Risk Identified
H. Students on placement working with children	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 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>(TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 7.0, Garda Vetting).</i> 2) All students working with children are required to familiarise themselves with the Child Protection Policy and Procedures. <i>(TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 8.4, Responsibility of Members of TUS Community)</i>
I. One-to-one tutoring or mentoring of students under 18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) All staff and students working with children are required to familiarise themselves with the Child Protection Policy and Procedures. <i>(TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 8.4, Responsibility of Members of TUS Community).</i> 2) All staff and students must avoid being alone with a child and ensure that they work in an open environment when working with children. <i>(TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 9.2, General Practices for Staff and Students in Working Safely with Children).</i>
J. Safety of Children during Online Activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) All staff and students working with children are required to familiarise themselves with the Child Protection Policy and Procedures. <i>(TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 8.4, Responsibility of Members of TUS Community).</i> 2) TUS staff and students shall ensure online safety is considered and adopted when delivering online initiatives to children. <i>(TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 9.2, General Practices for Staff and Students in Working Safely with Children)</i>

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to Manage Risk Identified
<p>K. Children using TUS sports, fitness, leisure centres or library.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) All staff and students working with children are required to familiarise themselves with the Child Protection Policy and Procedures. (TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 8.4, Responsibility of Members of TUS Community). 2) All applicable staff in TUS who carry out relevant work with children, are obliged to undergo Garda Vetting, in accordance with the <i>TUS Staff Garda Vetting Policy</i>. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 7.0, Garda Vetting</i>). 3) All students whose studies require them to work with children will be obliged to undergo Garda Vetting, in accordance with the <i>TUS Student Garda Vetting Policy and Procedure</i>. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 7.0, Garda Vetting</i>). 4) All staff and students working with children must ensure the safest possible practices and procedures in working safely with children. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 9, TUS Practices and Procedures for Child Protection and Section 10.0, The Reporting Framework</i>). 5) All staff who carry out relevant work with children must ensure the safest possible practices through the conduction of appropriate risk assessments for activity that involves children. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 9.3, Specific Practices for Staff in Working Safely with Children</i>). 6) All staff working with Children undergo Child Protection training (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 13.1, Training for TUS Staff Members</i>). 7) Relevant personnel with contact details are provided in Appendix 2 of the TUS Child Protection Procedures

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to Manage Risk Identified
<p>L. Use of toilets, changing rooms, shower areas, and canteen facilities accessible to children.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) All staff and students working with children are required to familiarise themselves with the Child Protection Policy and Procedures. (TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 8.4, Responsibility of Members of TUS Community). 2) All applicable staff in TUS who carry out relevant work with children, are obliged to undergo Garda Vetting, in accordance with the <i>TUS Staff Garda Vetting Policy</i>. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 7.0, Garda Vetting</i>). 3) All students whose studies require them to work with children will be obliged to undergo Garda Vetting, in accordance with the <i>TUS Student Garda Vetting Policy and Procedure</i>. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 7.0, Garda Vetting</i>). 4) All staff and students working with children must ensure the safest possible practices and procedures in working safely with children. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 9, TUS Practices and Procedures for Child Protection and Section 10.0, The Reporting Framework</i>). 5) All staff who carry out relevant work with Children must ensure the safest possible practices through the conduction of appropriate risk assessments for activity that involves children. (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 9.3, Specific Practices for Staff in Working Safely with Children</i>). 6) All staff working with Children undergo Child Protection training (<i>TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 13.1, Training for TUS Staff Members</i>). 7) Relevant personnel with contact details are provided in Appendix 2 of the TUS Child Protection Procedures

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to Manage Risk Identified
M. Volunteering activities involving children on university grounds.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) TUS staff who sanction the participation of volunteers in university activities involving children must ensure that volunteers are subject to Garda Vetting (TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 7.0). 2) All staff and students working with children are required to familiarise themselves with the Child Protection Policy and Procedures. (TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 8.4).
N. Children present on campus during summer periods or participating in camps or birthday events organised by subsidiary companies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The TUS Child Protection Policy and Procedures requires that TUS subsidiary companies establish and implement a Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Policy and Child Protections Procedures, in line with equivalent TUS documentation. 2) Subsidiary companies shall confirm in writing to the TUS DLP that they have established Child Protection Policy and Procedures and shall confirm in writing their biennial review thereafter. (TUS Child Protection Procedures, Section 4.0).

- 4) The TUS 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: _____
(Designated Liaison Person - DLP)

Date: ____/____/____