

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Bus Éireann in accordance with our legislative requirements under the Children First Act 2015 has developed this Child Safeguarding Statement. This statement is binding to all of our employees, contractors and their nominated employees/drivers.

Bus Éireann transports thousands of children nationwide every day on public bus and school transport services. On occasion, we also facilitate Apprentice and Transition Year students who wish to gain work experience as part of their Apprenticeship / Transition Year Programme.

Keeping children safe while in our care is central to the ethos of Bus Éireann; their welfare and safety is of paramount importance to us. We promote an environment where children are welcomed, respected, cared for and protected from harm. Bus Éireann staff, contractors and their employees understand that they have a duty and responsibility to safeguard children and support their general welfare, development and safety, promoting the protection of children in line with our **Child Safeguarding Policy**. As a matter of policy they must be alert to the possibility of child abuse/harm and of their obligation to convey any concerns to a Designated Liaison Person, who will treat such concerns in an appropriate fashion in line with legislative requirements.

Bus Éireann has adopted safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children. The risk to children when using our services will be assessed on a continuous basis and this process will form part of Bus Éireann's overall Risk Assessment.

In addition the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children availing of our services:

- Child Safeguarding Statement and Policy will be displayed on our public website.
- All existing staff, contractors and their employees will receive a copy of our revised Child Safeguarding Statement and Policy.
- All new employees will be provided with a copy of our Child Safeguarding Statement and Policy.
- Procedures for reporting child protection concerns are documented in our Policy.
- Recruitment process will include Garda Vetting, where applicable.
- Recruitment and Selection Process will seek assurance from applicants that there are no known circumstances that would prevent him/her from working with children or vulnerable adults.
- Child Safeguarding will form part of Driver Induction Training.
- Bus Éireann School Bus Drivers will be issued with our Code of Conduct and comprehensive Drivers Handbook.
- Drivers and relevant staff will be required to submit a successfully completed '**Introduction to Children First**' Certificate (*awarded online by Tusla*).

The Chief Executive Officer has authorised a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) to act as liaison with outside agencies and as a resource person for staff. The DLP will also fill the role of Child Safeguarding Officer.

- Mr. Gerry Gannon (DLP/Child Safeguarding Officer)
- Ms. Dorothy McGill (DLP/Deputy Child Safeguarding Officer)
- Ms. Debbie O'Neill (DLP)

This statement is designed to demonstrate our commitment to the safety and welfare of children on our services and in our care and is intended to reassure parents/carers of our ongoing dedication to the protection and safeguarding of children.

This Statement will be reviewed every two years or sooner if changes arise.