

Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd. Child Safeguarding Statement

This Child Safeguarding Statement is prepared in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017. It sets out the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child visiting Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd. is safe from harm. As defined in the Children First Act, 2015, "harm" means, in relation to a child

- (a) assault, ill-treatment, or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development, or welfare, or
 - (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions, or circumstances, or otherwise.
- Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd. commits to equally protecting all children from harm regardless of race, ability, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

Name of Service and Nature of Activities Provided

Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd., Kylemore, Connemara, Co. Galway is a visitor attraction, open year round welcoming visitors and families.

Under the Children First Act 2015, Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd. is a relevant service as it undertakes:

"Any work or activity which consist of the provision of:

- (a) Educational, research , training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children"*

Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd. recognises that child protection and welfare considerations must be reflected in all its policies, procedures, practices and activities. Everyone in the organisation will adhere to the following principles:

1. Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who visits Kylemore Abbey is paramount.
2. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.
3. All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
4. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who visits Kylemore Abbey, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.
5. Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
6. Staff must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd. has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while visiting the Estate. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

Risk	Policies and/or Procedures in Place to Manage Risk
Risk of harm to a child by a visitor to our service	Supervision policy. Reporting procedure.
Lack of awareness of the Child Protection Policy and Procedures	Child Safeguarding policy.
Missing/lost child	Missing/lost child policy
Risk of harm to a child through lack of supervision	Supervision policy
Risk of harm of a child by a member of staff/volunteer	Recruitment and selection policy Code of behaviour for staff
Risk of harm to a child through unauthorised photography and recording activities.	Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd. complies fully with all statutory Data Protection responsibilities. Supervision Policy in place.
Risk of harm to a child through social media/internet use	Social media policy
Risk of harm to a child by an older child / peer	Supervision Policy

Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd. Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015; Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017; and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice (2nd edition).

In addition to the procedures listed in the risk assessment, the following procedures and policies support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- 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 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 maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd. is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while visiting.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 22/01/2026 and every two years thereafter, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Designated Liaison Person: Niamh Philbin, E: niamh@kylemoreabbey.com T : 00353 9552052

Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd. has appointed the above-named Designated Liaison Person (DLP) as the 'relevant person' as defined in the legislation to be the first point of contact in respect of this Child Safeguarding Statement.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Signed:

Date: 22/1/2024