Drogheda Chess Club & Academy

Child Safeguarding Statement

Drogheda Chess Academy (affiliated to Drogheda Chess Club)

is a volunteer-led chess club providing a range of activities for children and young people.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the leadership of Drogheda Chess Club & Academy has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. Drogheda Chess Club & Academy has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Children First Act 2015 Procedures as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.

2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is	ANITA ATEH TURCIN
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLP) is	FRANK FENTON

4. Drogheda Chess Club & Academy recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of programme life and must be reflected in all of the Club's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the Club will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The Club Programme will:

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children 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 the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accident happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the development of their children; and
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any Volunteer member who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the club, the club adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Children First.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the club adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act): the programme has provided each Volunteer with a copy of the Club's Child Safeguarding Statement; requires staff to avail of relevant training; encourages Club Committee members to avail of relevant training; and the Board of Management of the Club maintains records of all Volunteer and Committee member training.

- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all programme personnel are required to adhere to the procedures in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- The Club has appointed the above named DLP as the 'relevant person' (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
- All Volunteers working in the Club are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Club has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while participating in programme activities and events. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the Club's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to this statement.

5. This statement will be displayed publicly at the premises where club sessions take place, and is provided to all Volunteers of the Club. It is readily accessible to young people, parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and to LMETB Youth Officers if requested.

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

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by Drogheda Chess Club & Academy

Signed:	**Designated Liaison Person** ANITA AITKEN	**Date:** 29/10/25
Signed:	**Deputy Designated Liaison Person** FRANK FENTON	**Date:** 29/10/25

Appendix: Written Risk Assessment

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015, Drogheda Chess Club & Academy has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while participating in club activities and events. "Risk" in this context means the risk of abuse, neglect, or other harm to a child, and not general health and safety risks, which are addressed in the club's Health and Safety Policy Statement. The risks identified and the procedures in place to manage them are set out below.

Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage the risk identified
1. Risk of harm from a child being alone with an adult during club activities	Sessions are supervised by at least two Garda-vetted adults at all times. Supervisors avoid being alone with a single child; any one-to-one conversation takes place in an open, visible area.
2. Risk of harm from inappropriate physical contact	Physical contact between adults and junior members is avoided, except where necessary for the child's safety.
3. Risk of harm from an unsuitable adult having access to children (recruitment/selection of volunteers)	All adults who work with or supervise junior members hold current Garda Vetting clearance in accordance with the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012–2016. Volunteers complete Tusla's Children First eLearning Programme and receive a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement.
4. Risk of harm from inappropriate online or electronic communication with a child	All club communications with junior members are conducted through group messaging systems, with parents included; no private one-to-one messaging. Juniors are instructed not to share personal information online and to save and report any message that makes them uncomfortable to a trusted adult.
5. Risk of a child leaving the premises unaccompanied or being released to an unknown adult	Juniors must remain in the venue for the full duration of the session. Children are released only when a parent/guardian has come inside and the handover is made in person; collection by any other adult requires advance written notice. Written permission is required for a child to make their own way home.
6. Risk of a child not being collected at the end of a session	A register of attendance is kept for every session. Supervising adults remain on the premises until every child has been collected; parents running late must contact the club immediately.
7. Risk of bullying or peer-on-peer harm between junior members	The club operates a zero-tolerance policy on bullying under its Code of Conduct. Any instances of bullying, discrimination, or exclusion are addressed swiftly and fairly by the committee.
8. Risk of harm through misuse of photographs or filmed content	Consent is sought before any images of children are taken or published; parents are notified in advance if a photographer is expected.

Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage the risk identified
	Images focus on the chess activity rather than identifying individual children; photo sessions outside club events are not permitted.
9. Risk of harm at tournaments and external events	Supervision ratios follow Tusla's recommended guidelines and the two-vetted-adult minimum applies. Emergency contact and relevant medical details travel with the supervising adults and are stored securely.
10. Risk of harm due to a child's medical condition, allergy, or special need not being known or managed	Parents must inform the committee of any health conditions, allergies, or special needs at registration. A stocked First Aid Kit is available at every session; at least one supervising adult is First Aid trained; incident report forms are completed for all accidents.
11. Risk of a child protection concern or disclosure not being recognised or acted upon	A Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy DLP are appointed as the first points of contact; all volunteers report concerns to the DLP promptly. All concerns and disclosures are handled in accordance with Children First procedures and reported to Tusla; all volunteers are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
12. Risk of harm to a volunteer under investigation continuing to have access to children	The club adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Children First in respect of any volunteer who is the subject of an investigation concerning a child attending the club.
13. Risk of breach of confidentiality or misuse of children's personal data	All records are maintained in accordance with GDPR; children's personal and medical information is kept secure and accessed only by authorised personnel. Confidentiality is respected, but never at the expense of a child's safety.

The procedures referred to above are set out in full in the club's Child Safeguarding Statement, Junior Code of Conduct, and Health and Safety Policy Statement. This risk assessment will be reviewed annually, or as soon as practicable after any material change or incident.

Completed by:

Signed: _____ DLP: ANITA A. TURCIN Date: 29/10/26

Signed: _____ DDLP: FRANK PENTONY Date: 29/10/26

Date of next review: _____