

80:20's Child Safeguarding Statement

1. What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. While protecting children from abuse is one part of safeguarding, children and young people also need safeguarding in order for them to grow, develop and achieve their full potential.

2. Name of service being provided:

80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World

3. Address of service: St Cronan's BNS, Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 NW42

4. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World is an Irish-based registered charity founded in 1996 promoting popular education on human development and human rights. For 80:20, education is fundamental to understanding the shape and nature of our unequal world, to interacting with that world as well as to imagining and shaping a different world.

80:20 is not a youth work organisation that provides direct services to children and young people. We do engage with young people in a variety of different ways, the range of activities which children and young people might be involved with 80:20 includes the following:

- Ongoing working groups;
 - Youth advisory groups, children/young people's forums;
 - Once-off consultations;
 - Representational role at meetings or committees;
 - Representation of young people at national or international events; residential and trips abroad;
 - Involvement at launches and events;
 - Communications via the internet and social media such as Facebook and Twitter.
1. Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service 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 attends our service, 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 and volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

80:20 is committed to the protection of children and young people with whom we work and advocate for, and to promoting good practice within our organisation.

80:20 is committed to promoting the rights of the child including the participation of children and young people in matters that affect them.

80:20 is committed to adherence to Children First National Guidance 2017 and the Children First Act 2015.

The best interests and the welfare of the child is the paramount consideration (paramourncy principle) underpinning all 80:20 interactions and decisions.

5. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while in contact with 80:20. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Risk identified	Procedure in place to mitigate risk
Access to Children	All 80:20 staff and volunteers who are expected to interact with children as part of the normal course of work activity are subject to a comprehensive screening process, which includes an application form, interview, reference check and Garda vetting
Risk of Harm, including Risk of Bullying	Per 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. Where relevant, 80:20 staff and volunteers are trained in child protection, 80:20's child protection policy and aware of their obligations in reporting a child protection complaint or concern.
Use of Images of Children	Written permission sought in advance from parents, guardians and/or schools for use of children's images in publications and online
Offsite Programmes	80:20 will participate in programmes at external locations with partner organisations with due regard to child safeguarding with appropriate policies in place.
Recording and Sharing Information	All records pertaining to child safeguarding complaints or concerns are held securely and shared only on a "need to know" basis.
One-to-One Working	80:20 programmes always involve more than one adult being present or at least in sight or hearing of others. A minimum of two adults should be present at all times.
Appropriate Physical Contact	Physical touch should only occur when it is appropriate to the age/development of the child and in response to particular needs of the child and in line with Children First legislation and public health guidelines. There will be instances when physical contact is unavoidable and in fact necessary, e.g. preventing injury.
Safe use of internet/social media	There is no unsupervised access to wireless internet (wifi) connection and/or computer network by children at 80:20. Mobile phones are not to be used during workshops unless absolutely necessary. The content of the 80:20 website and social media accounts is age-appropriate to the audience in line with Computer and Information Technology Use Policy, GDPR Policy and

	Privacy Policy.
Online workshops	Staff and volunteers are trained in the appropriate use of technology for the delivery of online workshops and the standards of behaviour required. School staff, partners and parents / guardians are also briefed in advance about safety measures in place for online workshop delivery.
Transporting children	Staff and volunteers will not arrange external meetings or contact children or vulnerable adults outside the group or project or offer lifts to children or vulnerable adults in personal vehicles.
Responding to challenging behaviour directed at Staff other people and young People	Staff and volunteers should not under any circumstances attempt to deal with any problems or challenging behaviour alone. If an activity – the event itself or peer activities between children – is getting out of hand or becomes unsafe, a member of staff must be notified immediately. Our Positive Behaviour Policy should be adhered to at all times by children and young people.
Communicating with parents / guardians (primary carers)	80:20 is committed to being open with all primary carers, i.e. parents and guardians. As a child-centred and person-centred organisation, 80:20 is committed to putting the interest of the child and vulnerable adult first. We encourage primary carers to work in partnership with us under the guidelines set out by our organisation to ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults
Partnerships with other organisations	Ensuring that all organisations who work with 80:20 are in direct or indirect contact with children and young people have a safeguarding policy that meets legislative requirements and is fit for purpose. Failing this, the organisation undertakes to follow 80:20's Policies and Procedures, disclosures and confidentiality.
Reporting concerns	Where relevant, 80:20 staff and volunteers are trained in child protection, 80:20's child protection policy and aware of their obligations in reporting a child protection complaint or concern.
Risk of Harm of a child on outings /overnights or at 80:20 events by staff / volunteer /stranger or peer	Ensure staff and volunteers from 80:20 understand and are familiar with the staff handbook, volunteer policy and training on 80:20's child protection policy in advance of outing or events.

6. Procedures

Our 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*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures 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 and volunteers 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.

7. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed within 24 months or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Valerie Lewis (80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World)

St Cronan's BNS, Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 NW42

Date: 29/03/2023 Review date: 28/03/2025

For queries, please contact Tony Daly, Coordinator Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.