

## HOPE CHURCH CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

*Hope Church values children and believes whole-heartedly in the importance of nurturing their spiritual and emotional well-being. We believe that each child is a gift from God and each child will be treated with dignity, love and respect while in our care.*

**1. Name of service being provided:** Hope Kids Ministry

**2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm** (brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children):

- Hope Church is committed to safeguarding children while in the care of our volunteers/staff while their parents are participating in church activities. We are committed to providing adequate training to all staff and volunteers. It is our desire to treat all children with dignity and respect. It is our goal that each child would feel safe, listened to and cared for while participating in activities. We shall provide age appropriate activities for children that will foster learning and creativity.

**3. Risk Assessment**

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</b>
1	Ensure volunteers properly vetted/trained	Standardized application procedure in place, Volunteers trained according to Children First guidelines, Volunteers are Garda vetted, Potential volunteers will be interviewed
2	Child illness potential risk to others	Children who have a fever, cough or runny nose should not attend child activities until symptoms diminish.
3	Child injury	Children who require minor first aid (minor cut or bump) shall receive plaster or ice, etc. Incident shall be reported to parent. Children requiring more than minor first – Parent shall be immediately notified / collected from service to attend child.
4	Child acting aggressively toward staff or other children	Aggressive behaviour shall be reported to parents.
5	Child report of abuse by parent or staff/volunteer	Any report of abuse shall be reported per child protection guidelines

**4. 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.

## **5. Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Hope Church is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while participating in activities at Hope Church.

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.

For queries, please contact us at [info@hope-church.ie](mailto:info@hope-church.ie)