Mid Tipp Hillwalkers

*Child Safeguarding Statement*

*Ratified at AGM, 05 October 2022*

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

Mid Tipp Hillwalkers organises walking and hillwalking activities for adults.

The club is also willing to provide an opportunity for children of members to participate in a very limited way in club activities, specifically by providing a number of family friendly events throughout the year.  We also permit members’ children, who are over 15 years of age, to participate in walks that are deemed suitable.

In all cases, the children will be accompanied by their parent/guardian who will sign a written consent form accepting that they will take full responsibility for the child during the event.

All club members participating in activities where children are present will be expected to treat the children with equality, respect, care and fairness. In turn we also expect children to respect our members.

1. *Scope of this statement*

It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk.

“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.

1. *Assessment of risk*

*General*

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

The fact that parents participate in the walk/activity with their child and accept full responsibility for their child for the duration of the walk/activity minimises the level of risk. An evaluation took place of the Holly Walk in December 2021 (where this arrangement was first tried out), and the procedures were deemed to have worked well.

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| *Risk identified* | *Procedures in place to manage this risk* |
| *A child may wander off and get lost.*  | This risk here is very low as the parent takes responsibility |
| *A parent/guardian may not satisfactorily supervise their child on the walk* | If there are any concerns in this regard, the walk leader will bring the matter to the attention of the parent/guardian and remind them of their responsibility to supervise the child. In such an event, if the supervision continues to be unsatisfactory, the leader will report the matter to the club secretary who will bring it to the steering committee for consideration. Members who do not satisfactorily supervise their children on walks will be asked by the steering committee not to bring them another time. |
| *A disclosure may be made by a child on/after the walk.* | In the event that a disclosure is made by a child on the walk, the person to whom the disclosure is made should contact the club Designated Liaison Person who will then (1) report the matter to TUSLA and (2) inform the club chairperson that a report has been made to TUSLA.This information will be dealt with sensitively and remain completely confidential |
| *A parent or child may need to turn back.* | The walk leader will arrange that this can be done safely. It might mean asking another walker(s) to accompany them. The child and parent/guardian will stay together. |
| *A parent may be injured* | The parent will be assisted in accordance with club procedures.  If the parent is not able to look after the child due to the injury, the leader will ensure that the child is cared for while this is happening. No walker who is not the parent/guardian will remain alone with the child. |
| *A child may be injured* | The child will be assisted in accordance with club procedures. The parent/guardian will remain with the child at all times. |

Where an allegation has been made, all parties involved will be protected and dealt with under TUSLA procedures*.*

*Implementation*

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. We are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support it. This statement will be reviewed at our 2023 AGM.

**Child Protection Officer/Designated Liaison Person**

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| **Name**  | **Contact Details** |
| Maeve Sookram | 086-2409481 |

Signed: 

 Chairperson

Chairperson’s name and contact details:

Eileen Ryan,

Glown, Upperchurch, Thurles, Co. Tipperary

0877657370