



WSKF SEDAI

Safety Statement & Principles for Best Practice in Child Safeguarding

Our Club is committed to safeguarding children.

Our Club is committed to the implementation of these procedures and our intention to create a safe environment for young people while availing of our activities.

WSKF Ireland, a voluntary sports organisation, provided Karate training and Instruction to children, young people and adults in Co. Dublin and Co. Clare.

WSKF Ireland believes that the best interests of children and young people involved with our Club are paramount. Our guiding principles are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Child Safeguarding: A guide for Policy, Procedures and Practice (Tusla) and current legislation such as the Children First Act 2015, Child Care Act 1991, Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 and the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012.

Our guiding principles apply to all instructors, volunteers, board members and parents within WSKF Ireland. All such must sign up to and abide by these guiding principles and our Child Safeguarding Procedures.

We will review our guiding principles and Child Safeguarding Procedures every two years or sooner if necessary due to service issues or changes in relevant legislation or national policy in relation to Child Protection and young people.

Designated Liaison Person for WSKF Toni Knowles

WSKF Ireland Principles for Best Practice in Child Safeguarding

WSKF Ireland adopts the following principles outlined in Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 ensuring the creation of an environment in which our young people are listened to, given a sense of belonging and kept safe, and where instructors and volunteers who work with our young people are supported and protected.

The following are the key principles for best practice in Child Safeguarding:

- Acknowledge the rights of children/young people to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and have their own views taken into consideration.



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- Recognise that the welfare of children/young people must always come first, regardless of all other considerations.
- Acknowledge that the safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility
- Develop a Child Protection Policy that promotes the welfare of children/young people and protects them from harm or abuse and outlines the steps to be taken if harm/abuse is suspected.
- Adopt the safest possible practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children/young people and protect instructors and volunteers from the necessity to take risks and leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect.
- Adopt and consistently apply clearly defined methods of recruiting instructors and volunteers.
- Remember that early intervention with children/young people who are vulnerable or at risk may prevent serious harm from happening to them at a later stage.
- Remember that a child's/young person's age, gender and background affects the way they experience and understand what is happening to them.
- Provide Safeguarding training for instructors and volunteers.
- Co-operate with other childcare and protection agencies and professionals by sharing information when necessary and working together towards the best possible outcome for the children/young people concerned.
- Make links with other relevant organisations in order to promote Child Safeguarding and Welfare policies and procedures.
- WSKF Ireland works from an ethos of value and care for young people, instructors and volunteers, to create a safe working and learning environment, which makes for a very rewarding and welcoming atmosphere.

Dr. Jim Bradley - Chairperson
Mark Sheridan - Chief Instructor