

## Language Camp West Child Safeguarding Statement

Language Camp West provides residential French and German Adventure camps to Irish second-level students (ages 12-18) on Achill Island, Co. Mayo. Students are provided with language lessons as well as an adventure sports and social activity programme. There are 45 students per course and 13 LCW staff including School Managers, Supervisor, Team Leaders, Animators and Language Teachers. This is a largely technology-free course, with no access to computers and use of mobile phones/wifi for half an hour each evening only.

The School Directors recognise that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all the school's policies, practices and activities. In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the proprietors/Directors of Language Camp West (LCW) have agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: Patrick Gallagher
2. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Alice Gallagher
3. In its policies, practices and activities, Language Camp West will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:
  - The school will recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
  - 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 accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take 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 education of their children and fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters
  - The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any pupil with a special vulnerability.
4. It is the policy of Language Camp West to safeguard the welfare of all students by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

Accordingly Language Camp West will:

- take into account in all its considerations and activities the interests and well-being of young people
- respect the rights, wishes and feelings of the young people with whom it is working
- take all reasonable and practicable steps to protect them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse
- promote the welfare of young people and their protection within a relationship of trust.

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that:

- their behaviour is appropriate at all times
- they observe the rules and Code of Conduct established for the safety and security of young people
- they follow the procedures following suspicion, disclosure or allegation of child abuse
- they recognise the position of trust in which they have been placed
- in every respect, the relationships they form with the young people under their care are appropriate
- We acknowledge that every child or young person who participates in the activities of Language Camp West should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse.

### Risk Assessment

We have assessed any potential for harm to a child using our services. Listed below are the identified risk areas and a list of the procedures for managing those risks.

<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer.</p>	<p>LCW fully complies with the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation in relation to staff recruitment and Garda Vetting. LCW has a procedure in place for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children. Staff are provided with a copy of LCW's Child Safeguarding Statement and Code of Conduct. Staff training to identify risks and define procedures/policies is carried out before the start of the course.</p>
<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child on outings.</p>	<p>LCW has implemented a policy and risk assessment to avoid harm of a child on outings. LCW has a policy and procedure in place in relation to travel away from the school premises, either on excursions or to the Adventure Centre.</p>
<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child through the use of unauthorized photography.</p>	<p>LCW has a clear policy and procedure in place that forbids the taking or use of unauthorized photography by staff or students.</p>
<p>Risk of harm of online abuse through social media.</p>	<p>Although LCW is a largely technology-free course, students do have access to their phones and a Wi-Fi connection for 30 minutes maximum each evening. Where risk of online abuse, bullying or harm to student's (by other students</p>

	or by staff) is identified, LCW has a policy in place to identify and deal with bullying/abuse.
Risk of injury due to inappropriate relationship / communication between child and child or other adult; Risk of injury not properly and promptly reported by LCW personnel.	LCW has provided a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement to all staff and ensures that all staff, including management, avail of appropriate training. Staff are trained in the LCW Code of Conduct and a record of staff training is kept by management.
Risk of students being bullied by other students or staff.	LCW has an anti-bullying policy and a Designated Liaison Person (DLP). During orientation children are advised that bullying in any form is unacceptable and is against school rules and the LCW code of behaviour. Students are encouraged to report any issues to the Supervisor, who will report to the DLP. Students are encouraged to speak about any issues, no matter how small, to the Supervisor or Team Leaders. Staff are trained in the LCW Code of Conduct.
Risk of injury due to inadequate code of conduct.	LCW has codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) and adheres to agreed disciplinary procedures for staff who break the code of conduct. LCW provides a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement to all staff. LCW staff undergo training prior to the arrival of students at the summer camp. LCW maintains a record of all staff training and asks staff to sign the LCW Code of Conduct.
Risk of injury to child in LCW by another child.	LCW has an anti-bullying policy and a code of behaviour for students. This is outlined to students during orientation on the evening of arrival. A copy of the school rules and expectations of behaviour (as well as consequences of breaking the code of behaviour), are sent to parents and students upon booking the course.
Risk of injury to children with Special Educational Needs and who are particularly vulnerable.	LCW has a policy in relation to students requiring such care. During training staff are made aware of their needs before their arrival and plan how to care for them in the most appropriate and effective way during their stay.

## Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement was developed in accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance, and Child Protection: A Guide to Tusla's Policy, Procedures and Practice.

**Many of our policies and procedures are listed in our risk assessment and we have on file a full list of procedures which support our intention to protect children and reduce all risks of harm when using our service. All procedures and policies are available on request.**

1. Procedure for managing allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers / volunteers in respect of a child attending LCW.
2. Procedure for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
3. Procedure in relation to travel away from the school premises on excursions or to the Adventure Centre.
4. Procedure/policy in relation to harm of children through the use of unauthorised photography.
5. Procedure/policy in relation to harm or online abuse through social media.
6. Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children.
7. Procedure/Policy for the care of children with Special Educational Needs and/or students who are particularly vulnerable.
8. Procedure for the provision and access to child protection training and information, including identification of injury incidents.
9. Procedure for keeping a list of mandated persons in LCW.
10. Procedure for appointing a relevant person for the purposes of the Child Safeguarding Statement.

A copy of the LCW Child Safeguarding Statement is made available to all staff. A copy of the statement is also made available on the school premises and online here:

<http://www.languagecampwest.ie/child-safeguarding-statement.pdf>

We recognize that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and to procedures that keep children safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 01/05/2020, or as soon as possible after any material change in relation to any matter to which the statement refers.

The School Managers have ensured that the necessary policies, protocols or practices as appropriate are in place in respect of each of the above listed items.

This policy was adopted by the School Managers on 01/05/2019

Date of next review: 01/05/2020

For queries, please contact:

Pat Gallagher

Language Camp West

The Valley House, Achill Island, Co. Mayo

*Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.*