



Vartry School of English – Child Protection Policy

Vartry School of English is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people who engage in our programmes. We recognise our duty of care to ensure that children are protected from harm, and we are fully committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all students.

This policy applies to all staff, local coordinators, host families, volunteers, and anyone involved in the care and supervision of students.

1. Scope of Our Programmes Vartry School of English operates a variety of educational programmes in Ireland:

- Enrolment of international students into local secondary schools
- Summer language and work experience programmes
- Mini-stay programmes during the school year

2. Legal Framework This policy is based on the principles outlined in:

- Children First Act 2015
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (Tusla)
- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017

3. Designated Liaison Person (DLP) Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for child protection is Mitch Lindsay +353894453534. The DLP is responsible for:

- Responding to child protection concerns
- Reporting concerns to Tusla
- Acting as a resource person for child protection issues

4. Responsibilities of Staff, Coordinators, and Host Families All those working with Vartry School of English must:

- Prioritise the safety and welfare of students
- Be familiar with this policy and its procedures
- Attend training or information sessions on child protection where provided

- Report any concerns about a child's welfare to the DLP without delay

5. Recruitment and Vetting

All staff, local coordinators, and host families will undergo appropriate vetting procedures including Garda Vetting. References will be checked and recorded

6. Code of Conduct All adults working with students must:

- Treat students with respect and dignity at all times
- Avoid situations where they are alone with a student, unless necessary and unavoidable
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, or neglect)

7. Supervision and Care

Students will be always supervised appropriately during programmes. Host families are expected to provide a safe and nurturing environment, with adequate supervision and care

8. Responding to Concerns Any concern relating to the welfare or protection of a student must be reported immediately to the DLP. The DLP will assess the concern and take appropriate steps, which may include contacting Tusla and/or An Garda Síochána.

9. Confidentiality Child protection concerns will be handled with sensitivity and confidentiality. Information will only be shared with those who need to know in order to protect the child.

10. Review of Policy This policy will be reviewed annually or as required by changes in legislation or guidance.

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