

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service being provided:

Engineering NorthWest/Sligo Engineering Fair, led by IT Sligo.

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

We carry out activities to promote Engineering and Technology to children, young people and their families and teachers in the North West region of Ireland. This involves: contacting schools and providing resources for them to conduct engineering/technology activities in the classroom; holding the Sligo Engineering Fair public family event, organising workshops for second level students (in school/education setting) and facilitating participation of second level students in the Sligo Engineering and Technology Expo – a public event which promotes Engineering courses and Engineering/Technology industry in the local region.

3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks. IT Sligo has appointed a Designated Liaison Person (DLO) who will also act as DLO for Engineering NorthWest/Sligo Engineering Fair.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Workshop/Performance providers cause harm to students. This could be deliberate or inadvertently.	No direct unsupervised contact takes place between providers and participants. Live online events are spot-checked by the event management team and transcripts are chosen at random for checking post-event. The event management team will report any incident to the DLO who will contact the relevant authorities if necessary. Failure to comply with mandatory safeguarding policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may result in the provider being suspended from further Engineering NorthWest involvement. If the harm caused is thought to be deliberate the provider will be suspended from Engineering NorthWest activities immediately and the incident reported to the DLO who in turn will contact the relevant authorities as appropriate.
2	Engineering NorthWest team and volunteers cause harm to children/young people or allow harm through negligence.	The IT Sligo Engineering NorthWest event management team undergo child safeguarding training and are subject to Garda vetting. Where possible, volunteers who have previous experience with IT Sligo are employed during events. The volunteer opportunities are advertised as opportunities

		<p>within the field of event management and science communication rather than an opportunity to work with children and young people. Volunteer safeguarding training is reviewed annually. Safeguarding policy and procedures are subject to review at any time, should a change be deemed necessary. All contact between the Engineering NorthWest team / volunteers is under direct supervision of parents/guardians or a teacher.</p> <p>Online Live chats are spot-checked by the event management team and transcripts are chosen at random for checking post-event.</p> <p>Failure to comply with mandatory safeguarding policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation and if relevant, legal authorities will be contacted.</p>
3	<p>Children/Young People cause harm to each other through the activities/digital platforms or teachers cause harm to students through same.</p>	<p>All contact between students is under supervision of their parent/guardian or teacher. Private chat is disabled for interaction through digital platforms. Interaction on digital platforms is moderated by the provider or self-moderated by a teacher or other organisation with Safeguarding responsibilities for the young people on the site. No direct unsupervised contact exists between teachers and students attending different schools. Attempts from teachers or students to share personal contact details on online platforms will be removed by the provider.</p> <p>Providers can delete comments in a live chat and suspend students from live chat. Users can be removed from the digital platform at any time. Answers or comments that may cause harm to students will be removed by the providers.</p>
5	<p>Details of safeguarding concerns are accessed by people who could use this information to cause harm to students.</p>	<p>The Safeguarding Concern Record is confidential. Only the DLO has access to this document. Where necessary, concerns will be reported to TUSLA (Ireland).</p>
6.	<p>Data breach resulting in user data becoming public</p>	<p>We use secure third party software for booking online workshops, we make it clear that bookings should be made only in the name and details of a responsible adult so there is no capture of personal data relating to children.</p>

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* and IT Sligo's Child Protection Policy.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 15/01/2022, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  _____

Marion McAfee,
Project Lead for Engineering NorthWest

For queries, please contact Catherine McNelis, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

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