



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Goethe-Institut Irland

(Including services in Dublin and Cork)

Version: 25.02.2026

Goethe-Institut Irland German Language Courses

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. We promote knowledge of the German language abroad and foster international cultural cooperation. With our global network of Goethe-Instituts, Goethe Centres, cultural societies, reading rooms, and exam and language learning centres, we have served as a first point of contact with Germany for over sixty years. We operate independently and without political affiliation, partnering with all who engage with German language and culture.

In Ireland, the Goethe-Institut Irland organises and supports a wide range of cultural events that promote German culture and intercultural dialogue. Our Language Department is committed to the promotion of the German language through language courses, examinations, teacher training seminars, and public engagement initiatives.

The Language Department provides the following services:

At our premises in Dublin (37 Merrion Square, Dublin 2):

- German language courses for adults and young learners aged 12 and above
- German language examinations for adults and young learners aged 10 and above
- German language courses for secondary school students (1st to 6th year)
- German language courses and camps for children aged 3 to 12

At our leased premises in Cork (Quaker Meeting House, Summerhill South, Cork City):

- German language courses and camps for children aged 3 to 12

All teaching and examination services are delivered by qualified and Garda-vetted German language teachers and assistants. The Goethe-Institut Irland is committed to ensuring that all children and young people availing of our services are protected from harm. We operate in accordance with 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.

Commitment to safeguarding children and young people from harm

The Goethe-Institut Irland is fully committed to safeguarding the children and young learners who participate in our language courses and related activities. We are dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment in which all children can learn, play, and develop.

We recognise that the welfare of the child is paramount and are committed to child-centred practice in all aspects of our work. Our safeguarding policies and procedures are informed by and compliant with:

- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)
- Tusla’s Children First – Child Safeguarding Guide (2017)
- Children First Act 2015

This Child Safeguarding Statement applies to all staff, volunteers, and students on placement within the Goethe-Institut Irland. All individuals working with or on behalf of the organisation are required to sign and adhere to the policies, procedures, and codes of conduct outlined in our Child Safeguarding Policy.

We are committed to reviewing this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying policies and procedures every two years, or sooner if required due to changes in legislation, national policy, or service provision.

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

The Goethe-Institut Irland has appointed the following individuals to fulfil the roles of Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy DLP for child protection:

DLP: Verena Mähler

Deputy DLP: Nicole Greß

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the DLP is the “relevant person” for the purposes of this Child Safeguarding Statement and serves as the first point of contact in relation to child protection concerns.

Both the DLP and Deputy DLP have received appropriate training in child protection and safeguarding and are responsible for ensuring that child protection concerns are responded to in line with statutory guidance.

Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Director/Deputy Director has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the service or participating in service activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

Summary of Risks and Control Measures

Identified Risk of Harm	Procedure/Policy in Place to Manage Risk
Children being left unsupervised before or after class hours.	Parents/guardians are required to accompany children to and from the classroom. Supervision is provided only during scheduled class times.
Contact with unknown adults in shared premises (Cork).	Children are not permitted to move unaccompanied through shared areas. Parents must drop off and collect children at the classroom door.

Inappropriate behaviour or abuse by staff or volunteers.	All teaching staff and teaching assistants are Garda vetted and trained. A Code of Behaviour for Working with Children is in place.
Risk of harm not being reported appropriately and promptly.	Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy DLP are appointed and trained. Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures are in place.
Risk of harm during off-site activities or excursions.	Policy for Managing Outings includes supervision ratios, risk assessments, and parental consent.
Risk of harm due to accidents or medical emergencies.	Policy for Managing Accidents and Incidents is in place. First aid kits and trained personnel are available. Parents are required to name any relevant medical conditions that need attention before starting class.
Risk of harm through inappropriate use of digital platforms or social media.	Social Media Management Policy governs staff and student use of digital platforms. Parents are required to sign consent forms for the use of photographs of their children for marketing purposes.
Risk of harm due to lack of awareness or training among staff.	All staff receive a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement and are encouraged to complete relevant training. All teaching staff working with children are trained in "Introduction to Children First' E-Learning Programme".
Risk of harm due to failure to respond to complaints or concerns.	Complaints Policy and procedures for dealing with allegations against employees are in place.
Abduction	Students stay in the classroom during lessons. An assistant is on hand to accompany children to the bathrooms. Students are to be dropped-off and picked up by parents at the classroom door. During camps, parents are required to sign their children in with signature at drop-off and pick up and to name any person doing so beforehand. The reception has video surveillance of all entrances and reception is staffed when lessons take place.
Inclusivity	The Goethe-Institut promotes inclusivity. According to our statutes we are a non-religious and non-political institution.

This risk assessment will be reviewed every two years or sooner if there is a material change in any matter to which it refers.

Policies and Procedures

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), and the Tusla Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement (2017), the Goethe-Institut Irland has implemented the following safeguarding policies, procedures, and measures:

Mandated Persons: All staff, including teachers and assistants, are considered mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015 and are required to report child protection concerns to the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) without delay.

Relevant Person: A Relevant Person has been appointed in accordance with Section 8 of the Children First Act 2015. The DLP serves as the Relevant Person for the purposes of this Child Safeguarding Statement.

Designated Liaison Person (DLP): A DLP and Deputy DLP have been appointed and trained to act as the primary contacts for all child protection concerns.

Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures: All child protection or welfare concerns will be reported to Tusla – the Child and Family Agency – or An Garda Síochána, as appropriate, in a timely and confidential manner.

Recruitment and Garda Vetting: The Goethe-Institut Irland adheres to the statutory requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 in relation to the recruitment and vetting of staff and volunteers.

Confidentiality Policy: All child protection matters are handled with the highest degree of confidentiality, in line with legal obligations and best practice.

Code of Behaviour for Working with Children: All staff and volunteers are required to follow a clear code of conduct when interacting with children and young people.

Staff Training and Information:

All staff are provided with a copy of the Goethe-Institut Irland's Child Safeguarding Statement.

All new staff receive safeguarding information as part of their induction.

Staff are encouraged and supported to undertake relevant child protection training.

In addition to the core safeguarding measures, the Goethe-Institut Irland has implemented the following policies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people availing of our services:

Complaints Policy: A clear and accessible complaints procedure is in place to ensure that concerns raised by children, parents, or staff are addressed promptly, fairly, and in line with best practice.

Policy for Managing Outings: Where off-site activities or excursions are organised, appropriate planning, risk assessments, and supervision arrangements are implemented to safeguard all participants.

Policy for Managing Accidents and Incidents: All accidents and incidents are recorded and managed in accordance with our general Health and Safety Statement, which includes procedures for first aid, emergency response, and reporting.

Social Media Management Policy: This policy governs the appropriate use of social media and digital platforms by staff and students, with specific provisions to protect the privacy and safety of children and young people.

Implementation and Review

The Goethe-Institut Irland recognises that safeguarding is an ongoing process. We are committed to the full implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying policies and procedures, which reflect our intention to protect children and young people from harm while availing of our services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years, or as soon as practicable following any material change in legislation, national policy, or service provision.


The Statement is published on the Goethe-Institut Irland website, displayed prominently within our premises, and has been provided to all staff, volunteers, and other relevant persons involved in the delivery of our services. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians upon request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla – the Child and Family Agency upon request.

Next review due: February 2028

This statement is reviewed in consultation with staff, parents, and relevant stakeholders.

Declaration and Contact Details

Signed:



Name: Nicole Greß

Role: Head of Language Department/Deputy Director

Date: 25.02.2026

Service Provider's Contact Details:

Goethe-Institut Irland

37 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 (0)1 680 1100

Appendix

Code of Behaviour for Working with Children

Goethe-Institut Irland

This Code of Behaviour outlines the standards of conduct expected of all staff, volunteers, and contractors who work with or come into contact with children and young people through the Goethe-Institut Irland's services. It is designed to ensure a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all children.

1. General Conduct

Treat all children and young people with dignity, respect, and fairness.

Act in the best interests of the child at all times.

Be aware of and comply with the Children First Act 2015 and the Goethe-Institut Irland's Child Safeguarding Policy.

2. Appropriate Interactions

Use positive, age-appropriate, and inclusive language.

Maintain appropriate physical boundaries at all times.

Avoid favouritism or showing preferential treatment to individual children.

Do not engage in any behaviour that could be perceived as threatening, abusive, or exploitative.

3. Supervision and Safety

Ensure that children are supervised at all times during scheduled activities.

Avoid being alone with a child in a private or unobservable space. If one-to-one interaction is necessary, keep doors open and ensure visibility.

Ensure that classroom blinds remain open and that visibility into rooms is maintained.

4. Communication and Digital Safety

Communicate with children in a professional and appropriate manner at all times.

Do not engage with children via personal social media accounts or private messaging platforms.

Follow the Goethe-Institut Irland's Social Media Management Policy when using digital platforms.

5. Physical Contact

Physical contact should only occur when necessary and appropriate (e.g. assisting a child in distress) and must always be respectful and non-intrusive.

Avoid initiating physical contact. If a child initiates contact (e.g. a hug), respond in a manner that is appropriate to the situation and the child's age.

6. Reporting Concerns

Immediately report any concerns, disclosures, or allegations of abuse to the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) or Deputy DLP.

Do not investigate or confront the alleged perpetrator.

Maintain confidentiality and follow the reporting procedures outlined in the Child Safeguarding Policy.

7. Professional Boundaries

Do not share personal contact details with children or arrange to meet them outside of scheduled activities.

Do not give gifts or show favouritism to individual children.

Avoid discussing personal matters or inappropriate topics with children.

8. Commitment

All staff, volunteers, and contractors must read, understand, and sign this Code of Behaviour as part of their induction. Breaches of this Code may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of engagement.

Furthermore, all new staff are referred to our Employee's Handbook for further information on our policies and code of behaviour and code of conduct.