



DUNDALK FOOTBALL CLUB

Child Safeguarding Statement

Dundalk Football Club in accordance with the FAI Rulebook, FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy, other FAI policies, procedures and our legislative requirements have agreed this Child Safeguarding Statement which is binding on all officials, staff, volunteers, players.

Dundalk Football Club is a football club operating on a regional scale providing sporting activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in clubs. The club offers sporting activities to children and young people from the age of six. Dundalk Football Club recruits over 60 staff and over 50 volunteers with over 900 participants.

Dundalk Football Club is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies and procedures, our staff, both volunteers and employed working with our children and young people, throughout the Association, seek to create a safe and fun environment for children and young people to participate in their sport.

Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

This statement recognises that in accordance with legislation and the requirements of FAI Rulebook, FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy, other FAI policies and procedures that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. Dundalk Football Club is established on a number of core principles:

- the needs of the Child, integrity and respect, environment, equality, fair play, welfare and safety in football. These underlying principles underpin our rules, policies and procedures to ensure that when children participate in our activities, they do so, as far as is practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Risk Assessment

In preparing this statement Dundalk Football Club have completed a Risk Assessment of the potential risk of harm to children when they are participating in any of our games and attending our activities. The risks were reviewed under the following headings; Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications; and General Risk of Harm.

The Risk Assessment was completed on 14th November 2024.

Our child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First, National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice). In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.



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Dundalk Football Club has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities.
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities

The Mandated person for the FAI is Andrew Barry

The Designated Liaison person is Peter Halpin

The Club's Children's officer is Andrea McQuillan.

Dundalk Football Club recognises that implementation is an ongoing process. Our Football Club is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child welfare and safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while participating in our activities. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on the 14th November 2025 or as soon as practicable after there has been material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

This statement has been published on Dundalk Football Club website; www.dundalkfc.com and displayed in a prominent place on the premises.

It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request in the office. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and members of the public if requested.

Signed: *Peter Halpin*

Date: *14th November 2024*

Name: Peter Halpin, on behalf of Dundalk Football Club

For further information on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact:

Designated Liaison Person Peter Halpin (email: peter.halpin@dundalkfc.com) or

Club's Children's Officer Andrea McQuillan (phone: 0863522899 or email: child.welfare@dundalkfc.com)