Child Safeguarding Statement

***Castle Villa AFC* in accordance with the FAI Handbook, 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 members**. *Castle Villa is an association football club* operating on a *local, county and 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 5. Castle Villa recruits over 20 volunteers with over *250* participants. Castle Villa 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

As defined in the Children First Act, 2015, "harm" means, in relation to a child (a) assault, ill-treatment, or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development, or welfare, or (b)sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions, or circumstances, or otherwise. This statement recognises that in accordance with legislation and the requirements of FAI Handbook, FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy, other FAI policies and procedures that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. Castle Villa is established on a number of core principles:

- the needs of the Child, integrity and respect, environment, equality (protected regardless of race, ability, ethnicity or sexual orientation), fair play, welfare and safety in football. These underlying principles underpin our rules, policies and procedures to ensure that when Children participating in our activities, they do so, as far as is practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Risk Assessment

In preparing this statement Castle Villa 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 undertaken on 20th April 2026. The table below lists the area of Risk identified and the list of procedures and policies for managing these risks

Risk Identified	Procedures/Policies in place	QR Code shortcut
Risk of harm including assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare or sexual abuse of child	• FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy • FAI Concern-Complaint policy • FAI Handbook • Safeguarding training	1.FAI Child Welfare & Safeguarding Policy
Risk of harm of abuse when hosting an activity and or an away trip	• FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy • FAI Concern-Complaint policy • Safeguarding training	2. FAI Concern-Complaint Policy
Risk of harm of online abuse through social media	• FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy • FAI Social Media policy	3. FAI Social Media Policy
Bullying of a child	• FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy • FAI Concern-Complaint policy • FAI Social Media policy	4. FAI Handbook

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Castle Villa AFC's ChildSafeguarding Statement has been developedin line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice).	**CastleVillaAFChas the followingprocedures in place as part of our SafeguardingPolicies:** • Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities; • Procedures for the safe recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities; • Procedures for provision of and 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; • Procedures for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are mandated; • Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures/policies listed are available on request. FAI Policies and the FAI Handbook are available on https://www.fai.ie/about/library

The Mandated persons for the Castle Villa is Kirsten Pakes of the FAI and the Designated Liaison person is Alan Proctor, Chairman. The deputy DLP is Stephen Rooney, Underage Secretary.

Castle Villa AFC recognise 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 1st April, 2028, 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 the clubs social media pages, parents messaging groups 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. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and members of the public if requested.

Signed: Date: 9th April 2026

Alan Proctor, Chairman.

Holly Murphy, Club Children's Officer

For further information on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact
Alan Proctor; Chairman 0861970080, Stephen Rooney; Underage Secretary 087 9405373,
Lee Doyle; Children's Officer 085 8828552 or Holly Murphy; Children's Officer 0872985130