

SAFEGUARDING IN SCOUTING IRELAND



How safe is a young person in Scouting?

- Scouting Ireland prioritises the safety and well-being of children; all volunteers undergo a strict recruitment process including Garda Síochána / Access NI vetting as well as reference checks.
 - As part of the recruitment process all volunteers must complete an e-learning Safeguarding module before completing weekend training course once their vetting has been completed.
 - Part of this training includes a three and a half hour safeguarding training module which is mandatory for all new Scouters (Leaders).
 - Our safeguarding training is recognised by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI).
 - Once training is complete Scouters may interact with Young People, this is always done in the company of other Scouters.
- Existing scouters are encouraged to do a refresher course in safeguarding / child protection every three to four years. All scouters are also expected to be re-vetted with the Garda Vetting Unit or Access NI every three years
 - Scouting Ireland has been training Scouters in safeguarding for more than twenty years

What happens if an incident/concern is reported?

We ensure that appropriate action is taken:

- Advice is sought from the relevant statutory agency; Tusla, Garda Síochána, the relevant Gateway Services Team in the North of Ireland or the Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Reports are completed and sent to the relevant authorities
- All reports / concerns are treated with the upmost confidentiality
- All details and records are maintained and securely stored.
- Support is offered to all parties.

Where can I see your procedures?

You can access the Scouting Ireland Code of Good Practice on www.scouts.ie or the Group Leader of your Scout Group can provide you with a copy.

Please also see our safety statement which is on display in the Scout Den / Meeting Place.

Where we are today?

- We undertake vetting of all adults who are members of Scouting Ireland.
- Provide training to ensure all volunteers and staff understand their roles and responsibilities regarding Safeguarding in Scouting Ireland.
- We review our processes every two years or sooner if deemed necessary by legislation.
- Scouting Ireland are ensuring compliance in all Safeguarding areas