



## BlockW Child Safeguarding Statement

BlockWeb CLG (trading as BlockW) is a not-for-profit company whose main object is to create awareness of and increase access to emerging technologies for women and girls through

- a) advocacy, strategic partnerships and collaborations
- b) building networks that offer learning events, research and resources that empowers women and girls to thrive in this digital age / landscape

and

- c) supported by a diverse network of members from business, academia, government and civil society, to drive change and foster a more equitable society.

The company's mission is to promote the benefits emerging technologies can provide to a diverse range of individuals and communities, bringing women and other under-represented groups into emerging technologies to promote gender equality and bring about more creative solutions thus benefiting these groups and wider society. Its programmes include community-based educational initiatives to increase awareness amongst children, parents and professionals of the benefits and potential of these emerging technologies.

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*, BlockW's board has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

BlockW recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of the programmes and must be reflected in all of the company's policies, procedures, practices and activities.

BlockW will adhere to the following principles and practices in relation to children and any adult student with a special vulnerability:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children and vulnerable students is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children and vulnerable adults;
- fully cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child and vulnerable adults protection and welfare matters
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and vulnerable adults; and protect employees from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect.
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child and vulnerable adults protection matters.

The following procedures/measures are in place and are available upon request:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against employees/volunteers of a child/vulnerable student availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of employees and volunteers to work with children and vulnerable students;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person Designated Liaison Person (DLP).

In BlockW, the board has appointed the DLP, Dr Josephine Bleach, as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.

BlockW is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children and vulnerable adults safe from harm while availing of our services.

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

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by BlockW’s board on [Date].

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of the Board

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary to Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child or vulnerable, please contact:

Dr Josephine Bleach, DLP and Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015, BlockW on 086 8153600 or via email [Josephine.bleach@ncirl.ie](mailto:Josephine.bleach@ncirl.ie)

**Tusla Child and Family Agency**, 492 North Circular Rd, Tel: 01 8566856

**Gardaí**, Store Street Garda Station: Tel: 016668000; Confidential Line - 1800 666111