

## Safeguarding Statement

SU Ireland believes that all people under the age of 18 should enjoy SU Ireland facilities, camps, and activities without fear of harm. SU Ireland, with the assistance of all staff and volunteers, will take every necessary step to ensure the safety and wellbeing of people under the age of 18 with whom we work, regardless of class, race, or creed.

We will endeavour to safeguard people under the age of 18 by:

- Adopting safeguarding guidelines for SU staff, camp leaders, and volunteers
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with people under the age of 18, parents, staff, and volunteers
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and people under the age of 18 appropriately.
- Following careful procedures for recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice at regular intervals.

## Child Protection Policy Statement

*“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these’ Matthew 19: 14 (NIV)*

- Reflecting our aim to follow Biblical principles and recognising the value that Jesus gives to children, we in Scripture Union Republic of Ireland, seek to ensure the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing and development of each person under the age of 18 in all our work with them. Scripture Union is committed to the protection of people under the age of 18 from all forms of abuse.
- For the purposes of this policy, Scripture Union Republic of Ireland accepts the working definitions of abuse detailed in “Our Duty to Care” – The Principle and good practice for the protection of children and young people. Tusla.
- In line with the advice from “Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children” (1999 Section 6.7.2) Scripture Union Republic of Ireland National Leader will appoint a Designated Liaison Person/s. The DLP will be responsible for implementing SU procedures in the event of an allegation or disclosure of abuse. The DLP will refer all incidents of concern, disclosures, or allegations of abuse to the appropriate authorities.
- In line with best practice, Scripture Union Republic of Ireland has adopted and agrees with the definition of a child from the Child Care Act, 1991 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, as being a person under the age of 18.

**In order to carry out the above policy statement, we in SU will:**

- Ensure that the welfare of the person under 18 will be the paramount consideration in all matters relating to decisions regarding the person under 18, who may or may not have been abused
- Ensure that all SU staff and volunteers are made aware of and have accepted SU's policy and procedures on safeguarding & child protection prior to undertaking direct work with children or young people.
- Put into practice recognized child safeguarding procedures for the prevention of and response to incidents or disclosures of abuse. These procedures will be reviewed regularly in the light of legislative and best practice developments.
- Apply procedures concurrent with the SU Child Protection Policy in the recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers.
- Provide instructive training to support staff and volunteers to acquire knowledge and understanding of child protection best practice, and SU's Child Protection Policy and procedures.
- Report allegations of child abuse to Tusla.
- Assist and cooperate fully with any Tusla or Police investigation or enquiries into any allegation of abuse involving staff, volunteers, children, or young people involved with SU.
- Regard all information pertaining to an investigation, written or otherwise, as confidential. All enquiry documentation will be stored in a secure place and will only be shared on a 'need to know' basis.
- Provide support for staff, volunteers, and other concerned parties during the process of a child protection investigation or inquiry, as appropriate in each circumstance.
- Make available on request our Child Protection Policy Guidelines and Procedures to parents of children involved in Scripture Union activities.
- Review this policy by March 2027