

# Declaration of Guiding Principles

**Name of Organisation:** LawEd

**We provide the following services/activities to children and young people:**

Our organisation believes that the best interests of children and young people attending our services are paramount. We believe that all children attending our service have the right to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and to have their views taken into consideration in all decisions affecting them. Our guiding principles are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and current legislation such as the Children First Act 2015, Child Care Act 1991, Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 and the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012.

Our guiding principles apply to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All committee/board members, staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by these guiding principles and our child safeguarding procedures.

We will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years or sooner if necessary due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

**Our Designated Liaison Person is:** Kate Fleming

**Contact details:** 086 814 4369 / Kate@lawed.ie

**Our Deputy Designated Liaison Person is:** Sandra Hedigan

**Contact details:** 087 2823363

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**Here at LawEd we provide the following services to children/young people:**

1. Onsite law workshops to 12-19 year olds
2. Virtual law workshops to 12-19 years olds
3. eLearning law course to 12-19 year olds.

**We believe the following:**

1. Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.
2. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.
3. All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
4. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.
5. Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
6. Workers/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

# Learning from inquiries:

Inquiries show that all places of work that involve children should provide for the safety, health and welfare of children. The purpose of stating the guiding principles is to communicate this intention to all volunteers, staff, children and parents.

<b>Best Practice Theme 1</b> <b>Guiding principles</b>	<b>Fully in place</b> <b>(working well)</b>	<b>Requires work (not working well)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
Declaration of guiding principles is in place			
Name of organisation and the services and activities provided to children and young people are listed with your declaration of guiding principles			
Your declaration of guiding principles specifies to whom they apply.			
Your declaration of guiding principles is communicated to children, young people, parents/guardians, workers and volunteers.			