

Child Safeguarding Statement



Neurodiversity Ireland

Prepared under the Children First Act 2015

1. Name and Address of Service

Service / organisation	Neurodiversity Ireland (trading name of Neurodiversity Sandymount CLG)
Registered charity number	RCN 20206465
Address	2-4 Claremont Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4
Statement review date	August 2028

2. Short Description of Our Service and Activities

Neurodiversity Ireland is a neurodivergent-led, not-for-profit charity providing supports for Autistic and neurodivergent children and their families. Our services include PDA-informed (Persistent Drive for Autonomy) clinical therapies, including speech and language therapy and occupational therapy, groups and camps, Assistive Technology (AT) and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) support, family wraparound support, and training and advocacy work. We take a neuroaffirmative, child-led approach across everything we deliver.

Services are delivered primarily from our Centre of Excellence for Neurodiversity at 2-4 Claremont Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4, which includes a Sensory Centre, OT-led and interest-based groups, 1:1 and small-group therapy, and a content creation room used for training and webinars. We will support approximately 400 children at the Centre, alongside many thousands more nationally through training, webinars and online community supports.

3. Our Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

We believe in putting children at the centre of everything we do. Every child has the right to feel safe, respected and protected from harm, abuse, discrimination and bullying. Every child has a voice that must be listened to, and we recognise that for many of the children we support, that voice may be expressed through AAC, behaviour, or other non-verbal means, and it is our responsibility to notice and respond to all of them. Children's best interests always come first, and we work collaboratively and responsibly, together with families, staff and partner agencies, to safeguard, support and empower every child. We train our staff to recognise and respond to concerns about a child's safety and welfare. Child safeguarding is everyone's responsibility at Neurodiversity Ireland.

4. Risks and How We Manage Them

This Child Safeguarding Statement is based on our assessment of any potential for harm to a child while using our service. It focuses on risks of harm as defined in the Children First Act 2015 (sexual, physical and emotional abuse, and neglect, that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect a child's health, development or welfare) and the procedures we have in place to manage those risks. It does not address general service delivery risks where no child safeguarding dimension exists; those are managed through our organisational risk management policy. A more detailed risk assessment for this service is available on request.

Risk Category	Controls in Place to Manage the Risk
1. Risk of harm to a child from a staff member, volunteer or student	Code of Conduct for all staff, volunteers and students; safe recruitment and Garda vetting procedure for all roles working with children; staff supervision policy, risk assessments of all operations and staff training on risk, lone working policy.
2. Risk of harm to a child from another service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public	Policies on ratios, supervision and accompaniment during groups, camps and 1:1 sessions; visitor sign-in and accompaniment procedure at our Centre.
3. Risk of harm to a child due to a staff member not recognising or reporting a child protection or welfare concern	Mandatory Children First training for all staff at induction and on a recurring basis; Children First included in staff induction; a maintained list of NDI's Mandated Persons under the Children First Act 2015.
4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child not recognising or reporting a concern	Child-friendly, communication-adapted safeguarding information, including AAC and visual supports, so children can raise a concern in the way that works for them; a family and child feedback mechanism.
5. Risk of harm to a child due to the service not fully implementing the Children First Act 2015 and related guidance	Named Safeguarding Officer; board-level oversight of safeguarding compliance, implementation of Quality and Safety Improvement Policy and Plan; this Statement is reviewed at minimum every 2 years or sooner following any material change.
6. Risk of harm to a child in the digital environment (including telehealth, webinars, AAC/AT devices, social media and content recorded at our Centre)	IT security and data protection policy; social media policy; safeguarding guidance and risk assessments for telehealth and the use of AAC/AT devices and for recordings made in our content creation room.

5. Procedures to Safeguard Children and Young People from Harm

In addition to the controls listed above, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services:

- NDI Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, aligned with the Children First Act 2015 and Tusla's National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children
- Procedure for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Safe recruitment and Garda vetting procedure for staff, volunteers and students working with children
- Procedure for the provision of Children First training and information to staff, including how to identify and report the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for maintaining a list of NDI's Mandated Persons under the Children First Act 2015
- Procedure for managing allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff, volunteers or students
- Complaints procedure for children and families
- Disciplinary Procedure for Employees
- Data Protection and IT/Digital Safety Policy, covering telehealth, social media and digital communication
- Incident Management and Reporting Framework

6. Putting This Safeguarding Statement into Practice

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. We will review this Child Safeguarding Statement every 2 years, or as soon as possible after there has been a material change in any matter to which it refers.

7. Sign-Off

Service manager	Sinead Kerley-Dunne
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Signature	
Date	26 August 2026
Relevant person	Nessa Hill, CEO
Contact details	0896063606

