



DZOGCHEN BEARA

BUDDHIST MEDITATION CENTRE

Dzogchen Beara – Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Dzogchen Beara provides the following services:

- Buddhist meditation and spiritual retreat programmes
- Residential accommodation and retreats attended by adults and occasionally families
- Day visits, including school group meditations and family drop-ins
- Volunteering programmes including young people aged 16–18
- One-to-one support in the Spiritual Care Centre for people experiencing illness or bereavement

2. Dzogchen Beara’s principles to safeguard children from harm are:

- We are committed to safeguarding all children who may visit or engage with our centre.
- We believe the welfare of children is paramount in all our engagements.
- Our approach is person-centred and grounded in the Buddhist principles of love, compassion, and non-harm.
- We respect every child’s right to be heard and involved in matters that affect them.
- We work in partnership with families, guardians, and statutory bodies.
- All children and young people will be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion.
- Child safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility; we commit to inter-agency collaboration when needed.

3. Risk Assessment

The table below outlines identified risks of harm to children and the procedures in place to manage those risks:

Risk Assessment

Risk of Harm	Type of Harm	Procedure/Control to Reduce Risk
A child being harmed due to inadequate supervision	Neglect, Physical	All children must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. Confirmed during bookings.
A child being harmed by a staff member or volunteer	Sexual, Emotional, Physical	All staff/volunteers are Garda vetted, trained, and sign a Code of Conduct.

		Supervision and reporting structures are in place.
Harm due to lack of safeguarding knowledge or failure to report	Neglect, Emotional	Children First and Dzogchen Beara training mandatory. Clear procedures for reporting to the DLP.
Harm via photography or unauthorised sharing of images	Emotional, Exploitation	Image consent required in writing. Strict data protection policy.
Risk of harm from online engagement or exposure to inappropriate content	Emotional, Sexual	No unsupervised online contact. Staff follow digital safety guidance. Parental permission required for digital activities.

4. Procedures

This Statement is developed per the Children First Act 2015, the Children First National Guidance, and Tusla’s 2024 Child Safeguarding Guide. Our key safeguarding procedures include:

- Safe recruitment and Garda vetting of all staff/volunteers engaging with children
- Provision of safeguarding training and guidance to all relevant personnel
- A Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy DLP to report concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons
- Managing and responding to allegations of abuse or misconduct
- Guidance on the use of photography, imagery, and digital content

All procedures are available on request.

5. Implementation

We recognise safeguarding as an ongoing process. Dzogchen Beara is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and its procedures. This statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after any material change in our operations.

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