

DOUGLAS TIDY TOWNS



CHILD, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION POLICY

Douglas Tidy Towns is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of all children, young people and vulnerable adults who volunteer with the organisation. Our policy on child, young people and vulnerable adult protection is in accordance with “Children First” and all volunteers involved in any event with young or vulnerable participants have agreed to adhere to these guidelines. This policy is issued to all new members on joining Douglas Tidy Towns and is re-issued to all volunteers on an annual basis.

Children, young people and vulnerable adults may volunteer with Douglas Tidy Towns in several ways:

- As part of the Gaisce (Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President’s Award) scheme
- Through involvement in a project that their school or after-school organisation (e.g. the Scouts) is undertaking with, or in support of Douglas Tidy Towns
- Through involvement in a project that their caring organisation (e.g. The Cope Foundation) is undertaking with, or in support of Douglas Tidy Towns
- Joining their family, guardian or carer on any of the Douglas Tidy Town activities.

The following guidelines must be followed for all Douglas Tidy Town activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults:

- **General:**
 - No person under the age of 18 or vulnerable adult (unless a participant in the Gaisce scheme – see below) may participate in any Douglas Tidy Town activity unless accompanied by their parent, guardian or approved carer or other approved responsible adult(s) from the relevant school or organisation is also present
 - All volunteers must show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of the children, young people and vulnerable adults, as well as other volunteers
 - Under no circumstances may an adult Douglas Tidy Town Volunteer work with (or transport) a child, young person or vulnerable adult, unless their parent, guardian, carer or other approved responsible adult(s) from the relevant school or organisation is also present
 - Under no circumstances should a child, young person or vulnerable adult be left in a situation that exposes them to harm or to risk of harm. In the event of an emergency where a member of Douglas Tidy Towns thinks a child, young person or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, they are recommended to contact the Gardaí in the first instance
 - There should be no unnecessary physical contact between an adult and a child, young person or vulnerable adult
- **Gaisce volunteers:**
 - Participants in activities with Douglas Tidy Towns as part the Gaisce scheme must be 15 years or over, in accordance with the Gaisce programme
 - Douglas Tidy Town Activities are conducted in accordance with the Gaisce Keeping Children and Young People Safe Plan
 - An adult volunteer may not accompany a lone Gaisce volunteer (under the age of 18 or considered to be a vulnerable adult) on activities or transport a lone Gaisce volunteer to/from an activity
 - Gaisce volunteers should never undertake Douglas Tidy Town activities alone. It is recommended that they undertake these activities either with another Gaisce volunteer known to them or their parent, guardian or carer
- **Volunteers via school, after-school organisation, caring organisations, etc.:**

- All activities undertaken with children, young persons and vulnerable adults must be supervised by appropriate responsible adult(s) from the relevant school or organisation
- While Douglas Tidy Towns volunteers may accompany such groups as they complete these activities, an adequate number of approved responsible adult(s) from the relevant school or organisation must be in attendance
- It is assumed that all such approved responsible adults will have been Garda vetted and such vetting is not the responsibility of Douglas Tidy Towns.

Types of abuse

Abuse can be categorised into four different types: neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse:

- **Neglect** can be defined in terms of an omission, where the person suffers significant harm or impairment of development by being deprived of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety, attachment to and affection from adults, and/or medical care.
- **Emotional abuse** is normally to be found in the relationship between a parent/carer and the person rather than in a specific event or pattern of events. It occurs when a child or vulnerable adult's developmental need for affection, approval, consistency, and security are not met. Unless other forms of abuse are present, it is rarely manifested in terms of physical signs or symptoms
- **Physical abuse** of a person is that which results in actual or potential physical harm from an interaction or lack of interaction which is reasonably within the control of a parent or person in a position of responsibility, power, or trust
- **Sexual abuse** occurs when a person is used by another person for his or her gratification or sexual arousal, or for that of others.
- **Bullying** can be defined as repeated aggression — whether it be verbal, psychological or physical — that is conducted by an individual or group against others. It is behaviour that is intentionally aggravating and intimidating, and occurs mainly among children in social environments such as school.

Douglas Tidy Towns
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