

Camino for Cliona's – Safety Statement

At Cliona's Foundation, the safety and wellbeing of all participants is our top priority. This Safety Statement outlines our commitment to child safeguarding, in line with best practices and national standards. It applies to all participants, leaders, and volunteers involved in the *Camino for Cliona's* event.

Standard 1 – A Written Policy

Cliona's Foundation has a clear and accessible **Booking Policy** that is shared with all interested parties, including families, schools, and individuals. Every participant and their parent/guardian receives a copy upon registration, ensuring transparency and understanding of our policies from the outset.

Standard 2 – Written Procedure for Reporting Concerns

All concerns regarding child welfare are taken seriously and dealt with in accordance with Cliona's Foundation's safeguarding framework.

The **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)** for the Camino event is **Alana Bligh**. Participants are encouraged to approach any trusted leader with concerns of any kind. All disclosures are managed with sensitivity and confidentiality.

Standard 3 – Policies and Practices to Prevent Harm to Children

- **Parental Consent & Membership:** All under-18s must submit a signed consent/application form. Parents/guardians are required to attend an information session before the event.
- **Participant Preparation:** Attendance at preparatory meetings and group fundraising is strongly encouraged. Each participant and guardian is met virtually before the trip to establish rapport and address any concerns.
- **Code of Behaviour & Disciplinary Procedures:** All participants and parents/guardians sign a Code of Behaviour. This is reviewed during the pre-event session and again with young people on arrival. Disciplinary procedures are clearly defined and communicated.
- **Information Sharing:** Updates are provided via Cliona's website, email, and social media. Communication with under-18s is always copied to their parents.
- **Photography & Multimedia:** Written consent is obtained from parents/guardians for any photos or video used for promotional purposes.

- **GDPR Compliance:** Sensitive data, including passport copies, is securely destroyed after the event.
- **IT & Internet Use:** Social media accounts are actively used to share event updates and are strictly monitored for safety and appropriateness.
- **Trips Away from Home:** All travel, supervision, and overnight policies follow national child safeguarding standards.
- **Accident Policy:** Incident procedures are aligned with Cliona's Foundation and national safeguarding guidelines.
- **Record Keeping:** All records paper and digital are securely stored. Annual opt-in is offered for those who wish to remain on the contact list.
- **Supervision Ratios:** The event adheres to nationally recommended adult-to-child supervision ratios.
- **Anti-Bullying Policy:** A zero-tolerance anti-bullying policy is enforced throughout the Camino event.
- **Leader Recruitment & Vetting:** All leaders are carefully selected, Garda Vetted, and at least one leader holds a valid First Aid certification.
- **Leader Code of Behaviour:** All leaders commit to and sign a Code of Behaviour outlining safeguarding responsibilities.

Standard 4 – Training and Education

All leaders receive **role-specific guidance** on their responsibilities, including Cliona's Foundation Codes of Behaviour and safeguarding protocols. Ongoing training supports their ability to maintain a safe and supportive environment for all participants.

Standard 5 – Communicating Our Safeguarding Message

Cliona's Foundation ensures all safeguarding policies are clearly explained to participants and parents/guardians during pre-trip meetings. Contact details for reporting concerns are provided, and open communication is encouraged throughout the event.

Standard 6 – Implementation and Monitoring

Following the Camino event, a full **post-event review** is conducted with the leadership team. Feedback forms are gathered from participants and parents to assess and

improve safeguarding practices. Policies are reviewed annually to ensure ongoing compliance and effectiveness.

Reviewed on: 06/05/25

Next review due: 06/05/26

Signed:

*Alana Bligh, Designated Liaison Person
Cliona's Foundation Safeguarding Officer*