Child Safeguarding Statement

Agri Aware is committed to raising awareness and understanding of agriculture and the agri-food sector. Supported by farmers and agri-food businesses, we focus on educating schools and the public about food production, agricultural practices, rural stewardship and countryside safety. Our initiatives aim to bridge the gap between urban and rural communities, helping people from all backgrounds understand the processes behind food production. Through educational programmes and campaigns, we champion Irish farmers, promote animal welfare, and highlight the value of nutritious Irish food, fostering a deeper appreciation for modern agriculture and its vital role in daily life.

Section 1 – Organisation's Details

Organisation's Name: Agri Aware (The Agri Awareness Trust)

Name of services/ activities being provided: We offer educational resources and educational programmes in primary and secondary schools which are run by teachers in classrooms. We run a farm-to-fork experience at the LIDL Newbridge Distribution Centre in County Kildare visited by primary school students and their teachers. We run a portable outdoor mobile farm experience which travels to schools of all levels, agricultural shows and nursing homes. We attend and run events to help people of all ages understand the farm-to-fork journey and learn how farms operate. We also run national awareness campaigns focused on different topics e.g. improving physical health and wellbeing amongst farmers.

Summary of Activities: Educational resources and programmes, educational tours, portable outdoor farm experience, running and attending events, national awareness campaigns.

Section 2 – Principles to safeguard children from harm

Agri Aware is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies, our team members throughout the organisation seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop. The following set of principles should be adhered to;

- **Importance of childhood –** The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in Agri Aware's activities.
- **Integrity in relationships –** Adults interacting with children are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.
- **Fair Play –** All children's activities and competitions should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play.

- **Quality atmosphere & ethos –** Children's involvement should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.
- **Competition –** Competition is an element of our educational programmes and should be encouraged in an age-appropriate manner. A child centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.
- **Equality** – All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Agri Aware team members do not work unsupervised with children. A teacher, parent, guardian, or carer is required to be present at all times during any activity involving children, in line with the procedures set out in this statement. On this basis, and following guidance from the National Vetting Bureau, Agri Aware has determined that its team members' roles do not constitute 'relevant work' requiring Garda vetting under the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012–2016. This position will be kept under review, including if the nature of any role or activity changes to involve unsupervised contact with children.

Section 3: Risk Assessment:

This Agri Aware written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents required to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identifies and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories;

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Educational Events, Workshops & Tours		
No communication of Child Safeguarding statement of Code of Behaviour to team members or visitors.	Low	Child Safeguarding Statement (display in prominent area at the event) / Child Safeguarding Statement (distribute to team members).
Unauthorised photography & recording activities.	Medium	Photography & Social Media guidelines/ Photo Consent Forms requested & signed by parent or guardian.
Supervision Issues during events, workshops and tours.	Medium	Team Member(s) ensures that teacher is present with groups during the outings.
Ensuring safety on tours by minimising risks and preventing injuries	Low	Health and safety discussion given by team member during tour.
Ensuring a strict 1 adult to 10 child policy is adhered to for safety and supervision purposes.	Low	Clearly communicating policy to teachers upon booking and during communications prior to tour. Agri Aware Education Officers cannot substitute as a supervising adult attending the event.

Accident or injury while at an event.	Medium	A teacher/ school staff member should administer any minor first aid i.e. cuts, grazes, etc. First aid supplies are on site should they be required. Ensure restock requirements are communicated. All major and minor incidents are written up and a digital copy logged by Agri Aware.
Allergies/medical/physical needs amongst attendees.	Medium	Ensure teachers communicate any allergies, medical or physical ailments or disabilities in advance. Areas where the tour or event requires alteration to facilitate the requirements should be done and communicated to all staff involved prior to group's arrival.
Behavioural Issues/Supervision Issues	Low	Team Member(s)ensures that teacher / parent/ guardian/ carer is present during event.
Portable Outdoor Mobile Farm Behavioural Issues/ Supervision Issues	Low	Team member(s) ensures that teacher/ parent/ guardian/ carer is present during mobile farm visit.
General General behavioural issues	Low	Code of Conduct Policy
Issues of bullying	Low	Dignity at Work Policy
Lack of awareness of a Child Safeguarding Policy	Low	Child Safeguarding Education
No Designated Liaison Person appointed	Low	Child Safeguarding Statement/ Reporting Procedures - Designated Liaison Person appointed: Marcus O'Halloran, Executive Director.
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with students, team members and visitors.	Low	Child Safeguarding Statement / Child safeguarding Training.
Lack of adherence with procedures in Safeguarding policy.	Low	Disciplinary Policy/ Grievance Policy

Section 4 – Procedures

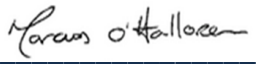
For complaints or queries relating to this policy and arising from a young person availing of our activities, the Mandated/Relevant Person for Agri Aware is Marcus O'Halloran, Executive Director. Marcus O'Halloran is also the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Agri Aware and is responsible for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla and/or An Garda Síochána where required, and for liaising with these agencies on behalf of the organisation (contact details are included below).

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Agri Aware is committed to the further development and implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities. Please note the following:

- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by Agri Aware.
- That all staff have access to a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, schools and members of the public on request.
- Copies of all policies referenced in this statement (including the Code of Conduct Policy, Dignity at Work Policy, Disciplinary Policy, Grievance Policy, and Photography & Social Media Guidelines) are available on request by contacting office@agriaware.ie.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in July 2028 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  _____

Marcus O'Halloran
Executive Director, Agri Aware

Relevant Person:

For queries, please contact Marcus O'Halloran, Executive Director, Agri Aware, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

Marcus O'Halloran
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Agri Aware
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