



POLICY ON THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN ON INSTITUTE PREMISES

1. Introduction

The design of buildings and the precautions to prevent accidents and injuries within the Institute have in general been designed with the adult population in mind. These precautions could in some cases be inadequate for children because of their inexperience, size or inquisitiveness. It is important to remember that a greater duty of care is owed to children than to adults.

2. Policy

Children are prohibited from institute premises other than in circumstances as outlined in section 6 "Exceptions" and section 9 "Work experience".

3. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Head of School/Functional Area as defined in the Institute Parent Health and Safety Statement to ensure that an appropriate compliance strategy is in place for areas under their control. The compliance strategy should include a procedure for the construction of a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.

4. Application

The policy applies to staff, students, contractors, external persons hiring the facilities and visitors to the institute who may wish to bring children onto the premises.

5. Definition

For the purpose of this policy, children are persons under 16 years of age.

6. Exceptions

Children are permitted in the following areas, subject to the provision of effective supervision by a responsible adult and a suitable and sufficient risk assessment having been constructed:

- a) Facilities specifically designed for children.
- b) Events open to the general public (these might include theatre productions, exhibitions, open days etc.).
- c) Organised educational visits by children.
- d) During a brief visit to areas defined as low risk by a risk assessment.
- e) Work Experience

7. Risk Assessment

A suitable and sufficient risk assessment could need to consider the following which is a non-exhaustive list:

- a. Age – The age of children is an important consideration (especially when assessing the risks identified in the 'All areas' section below).
- b. High risk work areas – (e.g. laboratories, workshops, kitchens and studios) The risk of injury and how this is to be effectively controlled.
- c. All areas - The risk of falls from stairs, landings and windows.
- d. Supervision – The provision of effective supervision. The level and type of supervision will be dependent on the degree of risk.
- e. Information – The provision of relevant information e.g. notices posters, leaflets and verbal instructions.

The assessment must reach a conclusion regarding whether or not the risk control measures are considered effective. If the risk control measures are not considered effective then children must be prohibited.

The risk assessment must be signed and dated.

8. Notices

The following notice should be posted at the entrances to each institute building:

CAUTION
Institute buildings are not designed for children under 16.
Children must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult.
Access to high-risk areas is by prior arrangement only.

10. Support

The Health and Safety Co-ordinator can assist assessors in the construction of suitable and sufficient risk assessments when required.

11. Useful Links and Further Information

This document refers to health and safety issues for children on site ; for more information on safeguards for child protection refer to

<https://www.dkit.ie/registrar/policies/child-protection-policy>

Health and Safety Authority:

http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications_and_Forms/Publications/Education/Protecting%20Young%20People%20PDF.pdf

http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Education/Teacher_Support_and_Resources/Choose_Safety/Choose_Safety_Students_Workbook.pdf

http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications_and_Forms/Publications/Safety_and_Health_Management/work_experience.pdf