

# Mighty Communicators Limited

## Child Safeguarding Statement

### Purpose of this document

Providers of Relevant Services are required under the Children First Act 2015 to develop a Child Safeguarding Statement <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-guidance-and-legislation/> . Child Safeguarding Statements should be published publicly, and made available to parents and guardians, Tusla and members of the public upon request.

The purpose of this Safeguarding Statement is to protect children and young people who receive Mighty Communicators Speech and Language Therapy services from harm, and to provide children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

### Name of service being provided

This is the Safeguarding Statement for Mighty Communications Limited (Ltd.).

### Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

Mighty Communicators Limited (Ltd.) is Speech and Language Therapy service for children, operating primarily in Dublin 15 and surrounding areas. This service provides Speech and Language Therapy to individual children and groups of children. This service provides Speech and Language Assessments and Intervention to children aged 0-18 years. This service provides Speech and Language Therapy support in a range of locations, primarily the child's family home, child's school and in local community centres. We also provide telehealth support if required. Speech and Language Therapy support is never provided to children alone; the child/children will always be seen by the Speech and Language Therapist with a parent/guardian/ teacher present.

This service is led by Sarah O'Mahoney-Sharman, a Senior Speech and Language Therapist and the company director. Sarah has attended Children First training (Tusla's e-learning Introduction to Children First) and is familiar with her role as a Mandated Person under the Children First Act 2015.

Sarah is aware of her legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015 as follows:

- To report, suspected or disclosed harm to a child, above a defined threshold, to Tusla.
- To assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report.

The Act defines harm as assault, ill-treatment, neglect or sexual abuse, and covers single and multiple instances.

*For further information on the criteria for reporting mandated concerns please see chapter 3 of document [children-first-national-guidelines-for-the-protection-and-welfare-of-children-2017.pdf](#)*

### Risk Assessment

Mighty Communicators Ltd. has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Support via Microsoft Teams has been identified as a risk if the child is engaging in Speech and Language Therapy <b>support virtually via Microsoft Teams</b> from their home. The child's parent/guardian may step out of the room where their child is engaging in support and in doing so leave their child unsupervised. There is a risk that the child may intentionally or unintentionally exit Microsoft Teams and access the internet alone. In doing so, the child may be exposed to content which may cause harm.	Prior to commencing any virtual support with families, the Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) will explain the necessity for parents/guardians to be present and to always supervise their child when they are engaging in support online. The SLT will explain that if the parent/guardian has to leave the room for any amount of time then the virtual call can be stopped and then started again once the parent/guardian is available.
2	When providing Speech and Language Therapy support in a child's home or community centre, there may be an occasion where the <b>parent/guardian accompanying the child may wish to leave the room</b> to use the toilet/ get a drink/ take a phone call/ etc. This would put the therapist in a position where they are left alone with the child.	The Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) will explain to families that the parent/guardian of the child must always be present with the child during the SLT's visit to home or during an appointment in the community centre. The SLT will explain that if it is necessary for a parent/guardian to leave the room where the SLT is for any period of time then they must take their child/children with them and then return together with their child to the room where the SLT will be waiting.
3	When providing Speech and Language Therapy <b>support in Community Centres there will likely be unidentified, and unknown individuals</b> present in the centre going to and from different activities / events within the community centre.	The Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) will ensure that families attending support in the Community Centre will know exactly which room to attend in advance of their arrival at the centre; families will be advised to enter the centre on time and not too early to avoid hanging around in communal spaces; families will be advised to supervise their child at all times when in the community centre; parents/guardians must accompany their child to the toilet if they require to visit the toilet during a speech and language therapy session; the SLT will familiarise herself with the Safeguarding Statement/ Policy of the Community Centres and implement any necessary procedures.
4	When providing Speech and Language Therapy support <b>in schools there will likely be unidentified, and unknown individuals</b> present in the school going to and from different activities / classrooms in the school.	The Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) will ensure that she is formally introduced to any individual in the school who she will be engaging with as part of a school visit; the teacher accompanying a child for support with the SLT should be identified and introduced to the SLT prior to commencement of therapy or observation session; the SLT will follow any necessary safeguarding procedures as laid out in the school's Safeguarding Statement/ Policy while on the school premises.

5	During a speech and language therapy session there is the risk of a child <b>tripping</b> over an item in the room or <b>slipping</b> off their chair if not seated appropriately.	The Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) will ensure that any room is risk assessed prior to commencing a session to ensure that no unnecessary toys/items are on the floor. Where possible, the SLT tidy up as they go during a session to remove unnecessary items are on the floor; the SLT will model and discuss what 'good sitting' looks like with the child to ensure correct chair use – a movement cushion may be introduced if a child has a particular need for additional movement while sat on a chair; the SLT will compile and adhere to a Health and Safety policy to minimise risk of physical harm during a session; the SLT will complete basic first aid training in September 2025.
6	During speech and language therapy sessions with children, especially younger children, there may be a risk of them putting a range of items in their mouth which would lead to a <b>choking risk</b> .	The Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) will compile and adhere to a Health and Safety policy to minimise risk of physical harm during a session; the SLT will only use age appropriate items in therapy sessions; the SLT will ensure children are supervised by a parent/guardian/ teacher at all times during an assessment/therapy session; the SLT will complete basic first aid training in September 2025.
7	As part of the speech and language therapy caseload, children may present with a <b>range of complex medical needs</b> , e.g. physical difficulties requiring wheelchair; visual impairments; hearing difficulties; dysphagia; etc.	The Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) will compile and adhere to a Health and Safety policy to minimise risk of physical harm during a session; the SLT will complete basic first aid training in September 2025; the SLT will discuss any accommodations that may be required with parents/guardians before commencing work with individual children; the SLT will request from the parent/guardian that she is notified of any additional medical needs that a child presents with prior to commencing work together.
8	When working with a paediatric cohort there is a risk of viruses and bacterial <b>infections spreading</b> from one child to another or from child to clinician or clinician to child or parent/guardian to clinician/child, especially when incorrect hand hygiene procedures are not followed.	The Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) will compile and adhere to an infection control policy; the SLT will advise parents/guardians not to attend sessions if they or their child is unwell; the SLT will not complete face to face contact with a family if she has any symptoms of an infection; the SLT will advise parents/guardians / schools to inform her if there is an outbreak of any infectious illness in a home or school setting so she can reschedule appointments until the risk of infection is no longer present; the SLT will ensure that tissues and hand sanitizers are available for use in all sessions; the SLT will model and encourage proper handwashing as required.

## Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment above, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- a) *Procedure for appointing a relevant person*: This service is led by Sarah O'Mahoney-Sharman, a Senior Speech and Language Therapist and the company director. Sarah has attended Children First training and is familiar with her role as a Mandated Person under the Children First Act 2015. Sarah is the sole employee of this company and therefore has been appointed as the relevant person.
- b) *Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children*: This service is led by Sarah O'Mahoney-Sharman, a Senior Speech and Language Therapist and the company director. Sarah has attended Children First training and is familiar with her role as a Mandated Person under the Children First Act 2015. Sarah is the sole employee of this company and is registered with CORU SL018028.
- c) *Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm*: This service is led by Sarah O'Mahoney-Sharman, a Senior Speech and Language Therapist and the company director. Sarah has attended Introduction to Children First e-training in 2025 and is familiar with her role as a Mandated Person under the Children First Act 2015. Sarah will refresh her knowledge of Children First Training on an annual basis. Sarah is familiar with the relevant documents outlined in the 'references' section at the bottom of this statement.
- d) *Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla*: Sarah O'Mahoney-Sharman is a Mandated Person and will report, suspected or disclosed harm to a child, above a defined threshold, to Tusla. The Children's First Act defines harm as assault, ill-treatment, neglect or sexual abuse, and covers single and multiple instances. Chapter 3 of [\*children-first-national-guidelines-for-the-protection-and-welfare-of-children-2017.pdf\*](#) outlines information on reporting mandated concerns. Section 14 of the Children First Act 2015 requires mandated persons to report a mandated concern to Tusla 'as soon as practicable'. Sarah will report any mandated concern to Tusla using the required report form, indicating that she is a mandated person and that the report is about a mandated concern. Sarah will include as much relevant information as possible in the report as this will aid effective and early intervention for the child. If a matter of urgency, Sarah will contact Tusla directly via phone call prior to the written report being submitted. If it is thought that the child could be in immediate harm, and Tusla cannot be contacted, then the Gardai will be notified.
- e) *Procedure for the 'joint reporting' of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla with another person*: As a mandated person, Sarah O'Mahoney-Sharman may make a report jointly with any other person, whether that person is also a mandated person or not. For example, this could arise in a school where the teacher, the Speech and Language Therapist and the principal all have concerns about the same child and wish to make a joint report to Tusla.

- f) *Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons:* This service is led by Sarah O'Mahoney-Sharman, a Senior Speech and Language Therapist and the company director. Sarah is familiar with her role as a Mandated Person under the Children First Act 2015. Sarah is the sole employee of the person and therefore the sole mandated person.

*Further detail relating to these procedures listed above will be provided on request.*

### **Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

### **Review**

This Child Safeguarding Statement was published September 2025 and will be reviewed during or before August 2027, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

### **Contact us**

For queries, please contact Sarah O'Mahoney-Sharman, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015 at [sarah@mightycommunicators.ie](mailto:sarah@mightycommunicators.ie)

### **References**

This document has been compiled after completion of the Tusla 'Introduction to Children First' e-training and with reference to the following documents:

- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children <https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/children-first-national-guidelines-for-the-protection-and-welfare-of-children-2017.pdf>
- Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement [https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA\\_Guidance\\_on\\_Developing\\_a\\_CSS\\_LR.PDF](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF)
- Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice [https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla\\_-\\_Child\\_Safeguarding\\_-\\_A\\_Guide\\_for\\_Policy\\_Procedure\\_and\\_Practice.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla_-_Child_Safeguarding_-_A_Guide_for_Policy_Procedure_and_Practice.pdf)
- Children First Guidance and Legislation <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-guidance-and-legislation/>

Signed: 

Sarah O'Mahoney-Sharman, Company Director; Senior Speech and Language Therapist CORU SL018028

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

*Note: If any part of the above Safeguarding Statement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the validity or enforceability of the remainder will not be affected. Delay or failure on our part in enforcing any of our rights shall not constitute a waiver by us of our rights and remedies.*