



Belong To LGBTQ+ Youth Ireland

BeLong To Safeguarding Statement and Guiding Principles 2022 – 2024

Our Mission

Our mission is to empower LGBTQ+ young people, through youth work, education, changing attitudes, and research.

Our Vision

Our vision is a society where LGBTQ+ young people are equal, safe, and thriving.

Our Values

Welcoming

We are mindful of people's wellbeing and strive for our spaces and interactions to be joyful and fun while ensuring they are safe and respectful.

Trustworthy

We are transparent in our work, how we operate and in our governance.

Rooted in experience

We work as equals with LGBTQ+ young people. What we say and do is informed by their lives, experience, and the challenges they face.

Courageous

We challenge and speak out about the causes and effects of prejudice, discrimination, homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia on LGBTQ+ young people and what must change.

Inclusive and diverse

We seek to create a sense of belonging and to reflect and include the diversity of LGBTQ+ young people and are mindful of intersectionality. We work in community and solidarity for human rights and social justice.

Strategic We make deliberate choices about where we focus our work and energy to make maximum impact on where we lead and where we partner with others.

Declaration of Guiding Principles

Name of organisation: BeLonG To

We provide the following services/activities to LGBTQ+ young people age 14yrs – 23yrs old:

- Peer Support Groups (face to face and digital)
- Peer led campaign and Peer leadership opportunities (national/international)
- Fun activities (summer program, art, theatre, Pride etc)
- Information and Signposting to relevant services (email/phone/text)
- Research, policy, and consultation opportunities
- Counselling and Psychotherapy
- Media and training opportunities

We believe the following:

1. Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child, young person and vulnerable young adult who attends our service is paramount.
2. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.
3. All children, young people and vulnerable young adults have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
4. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child, young person and vulnerable young adult who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.
5. Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
6. Workers/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

Guiding Principles

Our guiding principles are underpinned by Children First:

National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, TUSLA Child Safeguarding:

A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and current legislation such as the Children First Act 2015, Child Care Act 1991, Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 and the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012.

We will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years or sooner if necessary due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

Our Designated Liaison Person is

Name: Moninne Griffith

Email: moninne@belongto.org

Phone: 01 670 6223

Our Deputy Designated Liaison Person's

Name: Gillian Brien

Email: gillian@belongto.org

Phone: 01 670 6223

Name: Barry McSkeane

Email: barry@belongto.org

Phone: 01 670 6223