



## Child Safeguarding Statement

Royal Society of Chemistry

1. **Name of service being provided:** School and Public Engagement activities in Ireland
2. **Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm (brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children)**

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) is the world's leading chemistry community, advancing excellence in the chemical sciences. We engage and enable our diverse community and enrich the teaching and learning of chemistry. Headquartered in the UK, we have a regional team working across the UK and Ireland to support our Education and Public engagement activities.

Some of the services that are provided by the RSC fall within the meaning of the term 'relevant service' under the Children First Act (2015), as amended ("2015 Act"), and the RSC is the provider of these relevant services in so far as it contracts or permits persons to undertake relevant services on its behalf.

Relevant services may include:

*Spectroscopy in a Suitcase (SIAS)*

SIAS is a scheme giving school students (aged 14-18) the opportunity to learn about spectroscopy through hands-on experience within the school environment. The RSC contracts with various institutions in Ireland for the provision of these services that are delivered by SIAS ambassadors recruited by the institution.

*Education Coordinator (EC)*

The RSC contracts with Trinity College Dublin (TCD) for TCD to employ an Education Coordinator. The Education Coordinator has (limited) contact with children that consists of the provision of educational activities (running public engagement events, SIAS activities and meeting teachers at schools events).

The RSC is committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of children while they are participating in activities run on behalf of the RSC. The RSC adheres to the requirements of the 2015 Act and the National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2017, issued by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and requires those who run activities on its behalf to do so.

### 3. Risk assessment

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk
1	Child is harmed by a SIAS ambassador or Education Coordinator while availing of services delivered on behalf of the RSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SIAS Ambassadors and Education Coordinator must not allow themselves to be left unattended with children at any time. When attending a school they must be accompanied by a teacher or other person assigned by the school to supervise the class at all times</li> </ul>
2	The nature of the activity, or other material to which a child is exposed, maybe inappropriate and potentially harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those involved in providing the relevant services will be vetted in accordance with the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable persons) Act 2012 (as amended) ('Vetting Act'). The host institutions with which the RSC contracts to deliver the relevant services will carry out the vetting in line with their own vetting policies and will provide written confirmation to the RSC that the relevant persons have been vetted and have been considered by the host institution to be suitable to undertake the relevant work/activities on behalf of the institution and the RSC. The host organisations will enter into a written agreement with the RSC under section 12(3A) of the Vetting Act in this regard.</li> <li>• The RSC expects those carrying out relevant services on its behalf to be compliant with the principles laid down by the 2015 Act</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SIAS Ambassadors and the Education Coordinator will be provided the RSC's Child Safeguarding Statement, RSC Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy and RSC Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults procedures and processes in advance of an activity being provided by or being delivered on behalf of the RSC</li> </ul>
3	Variety of Child Safeguarding policies in use due to relevant services carried out by different institutions, each with their own policy	<p>Institutions are made aware of the need to adhere to the RSC's Child Safeguarding Statement, RSC Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy and RSC Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults procedures and processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face to face updates are given to institutions at annual SIAS meetings and Education Coordinator review meetings</li> </ul>
4	A child discloses to a SIAS ambassador or Education Coordinator that they are being harmed either within or outside these relevant services and this disclosure is not appropriately reported to Tusla and/or the Garda Síochána (Irish police force) (whether on a statutory or voluntary basis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If any disclosures of harm are made to a SIAS ambassador or Education Coordinator they should contact the relevant Designated Safeguarding Officers as a matter of urgency to seek advice on any necessary steps to take.</li> </ul>

#### 4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the 2015 Act, 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, the following procedures (covered in the RSC Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy and RSC Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults procedures and processes) support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers made by a child availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla and/or the Garda Síochána (Irish police force) (whether on a statutory or voluntary basis)

The RSC has Designated Safeguarding Officers in the UK. They have been appointed as the relevant persons under the 2015 Act and are the first point of contact for the RSC Child Safeguarding Statement.

RSC's Designated Safeguarding Officers (and relevant persons) for the time being are:

Rio Hutchings and Magda Van Leeuwen  
Thomas Graham House, Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WF  
Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 420066  
Email: [safeguarding@rsc.org](mailto:safeguarding@rsc.org)

All procedures are available upon request.

## 5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020, or as soon as practicable after any legislative changes which arise in the area of child protection, any changes to The Royal Society of Chemistry's services or any material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed



Sarah Robertson  
Director, Educational and Professional Practice

For queries, please contact  
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