Child Safeguarding Statement

***Avondale United FC* in accordance with the FAI Rulebook, FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy, other FAI policies, procedures and our legislative requirements have agreed this Child Safeguarding Statement which is binding on all members**. *Avondale* United FC is a *FootBall Club* operating on a *Local* scale Providing sporting activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in clubs. The *Clubs (*offers sporting activities to children and young people from the age of 5 School age). *Club)* recruits over *100* volunteers with over *900* participants. *Our Club* is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies and procedures, our staff, both volunteers and employed working with our children and young people, throughout the Association, seek to create a safe and fun environment for children and young people to participate in their sport.

Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

This statement recognises that in accordance with legislation and the requirements of FAI Rulebook, FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy, other FAI policies and procedures that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. *Avondale United is* established on a number of core principles:

- the needs of the Child, integrity and respect, environment, equality, fair play, welfare and safety in football. These underlying principles underpin our rules, policies and procedures to ensure that when Children participate in our activities, they do so, as far as is practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Risk Assessment

In preparing this statement Avondale United have completed a Risk Assessment of the potential risk of harm to children when they are participating in any of our games and attending our activities. The risks were reviewed under the following headings; Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications; and General Risk of Harm. The Risk Assessment was undertaken in 2023 The table below lists the area of Risk identified and the list of procedures and policies for managing these risks

Risk Identified	Procedures/Policies in place	QR Code shortcut
Risk of harm including assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare or sexual abuse of child	• FAI Child Welfare &Safeguarding • FAI Concern-Complaint policy • FAI Rulebook • Safeguarding training • (*child Officer training. ChairPerson Designated Liaison person most recent Course in 2024 with a Deputy Designated Person also Trained*)	1.FAI Child Welfare & Safeguarding Policy
Risk of harm of abuse when hosting an activity and or an away trip	• FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy • FAI Concern-Complaint policy • Safeguarding training • Parents inclusion & multiple Coaches • see www.AvondaleUnited.com	2. FAI Concern-Complaint Policy
Risk of harm of online abuse through social media	• FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy • FAI Social Media policy • *Club Zap to include Permission for Imagines for Social Media.* • *Committee Members in Control of Socials* • *Multiple Managers of Each Account to ensure monitored use.*	3. FAI Social Media Policy
Bullying of a child	• FAI Child Welfare & Safeguarding • FAI Concern-Complaint policy • FAI Social Media policy • Please see our website or talk to Club Reps	4. FAI Rulebook

Child Safeguarding Statement

The *Avondale United FC*'s Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice).	**The *Club* has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:** ● Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities; ● Procedures for the safe recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities; ● Procedures for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm; ● Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities; ● Procedures for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are mandated; ● Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures/policies listed are available on request. FAI Policies and the FAI Rulebook are available on www.fai.ie/domestic *www.AvondaleUnited.com*

The Mandated person for Avondale United FC in 2024 is Kirsten Pakes of the FAI and the Certified Designated Liaison person for the club Avondale United FC in 2024 is *ChairWoman Mags Cronin, Deputy Liaison is Joe Plunkett, Vice Chair. Our Child Safe Office is Richard Haugh.*

Avondale United FC recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our Club is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child welfare and safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while participating in our activities. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed During 2026 or as soon as practicable after there has been material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

This statement has been published on Avondale United FC website; *www.Avondaleunited.com* and will be displayed in a prominent place on the premises, which will be the New Dressing rooms currently being Built

It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and members of the public if requested.

Signed:  Date: 30/March 2024

(Avondale United FC – this is the Provider)

For further information on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the relevant *person Mags, Joe or Richard*: Add contact details: Info@avondaleunited.com.