

UniHaven Child Safeguarding Statement

1. The purpose and scope of this policy statement

UniHaven helps international students to gain access to predominately Irish HEIs by recruiting them through its agent networks and online channels, teaching them its accredited foundation pathway programmes (“foundation programme” or “pathway programme”), and progressing those who successfully complete these programmes to HEI partners with whom it has written agreements. Our core values are:

- Student Care
- Quality
- Integrity
- Professionalism

We provide the following activities regarding current students and potential students.

- Admission, including pre-arrival communication.
- Registration.
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment.
- Accommodation.
- Social and University Activities
- Progression to HEI Partners.

The purpose of this policy statement is to protect children and young people who receive Unihaven services from harm. This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of UniHaven, including senior managers and the Board of Directors, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

2. Commitment to compliance with national legislation and policy

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children and young people in Ireland. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from the TUSLA website link: www.tusla.ie.

3. Declaration of Guiding Principles

We believe the following:

1. Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person 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 and young people 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 and young person 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.

4. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

We interact with students and their parents/guardians and agents who may represent them at admissions stages to ensure they are suitable to study with us and to provide advice as to how to prepare for study in Ireland, which often includes arranging their accommodation with our head office accommodation team. This includes, for those under 18, a referral to our guardian nominee provider who will support minors in all aspects 24/7 in Ireland. Working in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare. Once students have been registered, we enrol them once they arrive in Ireland after which we induct them about all College policies and procedures, including child protection and safeguarding and our student charter expected behaviours, and we teach and assess them while they study our programmes. While they study with us, we provide a range of social activities for them to enjoy, and we facilitate cultural and university visits. We do our best to ensure students achieve the required grades to progress to degree study at our HEI partners.

We recognise that all young people, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse. At all times, whether through communications online or in person, we commit to treating all students with dignity and respect in ways that support their positive health and wellbeing. If we have concerns, we raise them internally and/or with Tusla and/or An Garda Siochana in accordance with our Child Protection Policy to action these concerns in the best interest of the student.

5. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child and young person while availing of our services including the area of safety when online communicating with our staff and each other online. 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	Coming to Ireland	Our Student Support Officer will provide accurate information to incoming students, correct referral to our guardian nominee provider (Godsil), airport collection/accommodation arrangements and pickups on request, and pre-arrival welcome packs to facilitate settling in on arrival. UniHaven's Terms and Conditions and Child

		Protection Policy outline the relationship between UniHaven and Godsil and Godsil and student/parent/guardian.
2	Induction and Registration	We provide students with clear information around what behaviours and communications are and are not acceptable, both student-to-student and staff-to-student, safeguarding information, and our reporting obligations under Irish legislation. We make sure all young people know where to go for help if they have a concern including the public display of this Safeguarding Statement at their induction when they first start with us.
3	Staff Recruitment and Training	We Garda vet all staff at the recruitment stage before they work with us. We provide child protection and safeguarding training at induction and remotely which is compulsory to complete.
4	Teaching, Learning and Assessment	We monitor all behaviour to ensure it stays within our expectations as communicated during induction via the Student Charter and in ways that support high standard teaching, learning and assessment.
5	Accommodation	We only use reputable Student Accommodation providers that our parent company CEG has risk assessed to ensure they have adequate provision in place for allowing under 18s to be on their premises such as suitable security etc. We make available Garda vetted homestay providers as an option to students.
6	HEI Progression	Minors will be 18 years of age before they progress to Irish HEIs as per our entry criteria.
7	Data storage	Recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with our data protection policies.
8	Safer recruitment	Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
9	Student at risk of harm	We use our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving young people, parents, and carers as appropriate.
10	Safe environment	We provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with Irish law and regulations.
11	Safeguarding culture	Effective whistleblowing and complaints measures are in place.

6. 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, the following policies and associated procedures support our intention to safeguard children and young people while they are availing of our service:

- UDOC008 UniHaven Student Charter.
- UPOL009 UniHaven Staff Recruitment and Selection Policy.
- UPOL012 UniHaven Garda Vetting Policy.
- UPOL019 UniHaven Child Protection Policy.
- UPOL031 UniHaven Protected Disclosures Policy.
- UPOL033 UniHaven Wellbeing and Support to Study Policy.
- UPRO010 UniHaven Student Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure Rev 1.

All procedures listed are available upon request. Relevant legislation includes:

- Children First Act 2015.
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.
- The Child Care Act 1991.
- The Children Act 2001.
- The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Copies of all legislation can be accessed at www.irishstatutebook.ie.

7. 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 and young people safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Brian McDonald



UniHaven College
Marianella
Moyglare Road
Maynooth
Co. Kildare

For queries, please contact **Deirdre McCarton** (deirdre@unihaven.ie), Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.