

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

In accordance with the **Children First Act 2015**, Gorey Dental Practice has carried out an assessment of any potential risks of harm to a child while attending the practice or receiving dental treatment.

Identified Risks & Control Measures

1. One-to-one treatment of a child in a surgery room

Risk: Inappropriate behaviour or allegations.

Control: A parent/guardian may accompany the child. If not present, a dental nurse or appropriate staff member will remain in the room at all times.

2. Inadequate consent procedures

Risk: Treatment provided without appropriate parental/guardian consent.

Control: Written or verbal consent obtained from a parent/guardian for children under 16. Patients aged 16–17 may consent for themselves in line with Irish law.

3. Failure to recognise or report child protection concerns

Risk: Harm to a child not identified or reported.

Control: All dentists are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015 and will report reasonable concerns to Tusla. Staff are informed of reporting procedures.

4. Recruitment of unsuitable staff

Risk: Exposure of children to inappropriate individuals.

Control: Compliance with the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012–2016. Relevant staff are Garda vetted prior to commencing employment.

5. Poor complaints handling

Risk: Concerns not addressed appropriately.

Control: Clear complaints procedure in place and accessible to patients and parents/guardians.

We recognise that the welfare of the child is paramount and we are fully committed to meeting our obligations under the **Children First Act 2015** and adhering to **Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children**.

Child Safeguarding Statement

Gorey Dental Practice

Gorey Dental Practice is committed to safeguarding children and protecting them from harm while attending our practice.

We recognise that the welfare of the child is paramount and we are fully committed to meeting our obligations under the **Children First Act 2015** and adhering to **Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children**.

We have:

- Carried out a formal risk assessment of our services.
- Implemented procedures for the management of child protection concerns.
- Committed to reporting reasonable grounds for concern to Tusla without delay.
- Ensured relevant staff are vetted in accordance with the **National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012–2016**.
- Put procedures in place for safe recruitment, supervision, and complaints handling.

This Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents and guardians on our website or we can provide a printed copy on request. This is reviewed every two years, or sooner if there is a material change in services or legislation.