



The Economic and Social Research Institute  
Whitaker Square  
Sir John Rogerson's Quay  
Dublin 2  
Ph: 01-863 2000 FAX 01-863 2100



## [Growing Up in Ireland's Child Safeguarding Statement](#)

***Growing Up in Ireland*** is a government-funded study of children which is being carried out by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD). The study started in 2006 and follows the progress of two groups of children who were recruited into the project at that time, just over 8,500 9-year-olds (Cohort'98) and 11,000 9-month-olds (Cohort'08). The members of Cohort'98 are currently aged 19/20 years old and those of Cohort'08 are 9/10 years old (March 2018).

The ***Growing Up in Ireland*** study is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), with a contribution from The Atlantic Philanthropies. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs is overseeing and managing the study in conjunction with the Central Statistics Office and an inter-departmental Project Team and Steering Group. It is being implemented by a group of independent researchers led by the Economic and Social Research Institute and Trinity College Dublin.

The main objective of the study is to describe the lives of children in Ireland in the relevant age categories and to establish what is typical and normal, as well as what is atypical and problematic in terms of their well-being and development.

Implementation of the ***Growing Up in Ireland*** project involves interviewing the children, young people and families who are involved in the study in their own homes, as well as conducting interviews with teachers and principals in the children's schools. These interviews are generally administered by field interviewers who visit participants' homes and schools. The field interviewers are employed by the ESRI. In addition, focus groups with children and young persons are also carried out on occasion, as part of the consultative process in the design and development of the project.

**The health, safety and protection of all children encountered in the course of the project are paramount at all times to the people who are responsible for the *Growing Up in Ireland* study.**

### [Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment](#)

A dedicated *Child Welfare and Protection Risk Assessment* has been carried out to identify potential risks of harm to a child arising from their involvement in the study. Procedures have been put in place to manage the identified risks. This risk register is regularly reviewed and updated.

### [Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures](#)

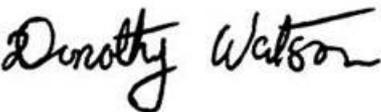
The ***Growing Up in Ireland*** team is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children encountered in the course of the study and to protecting them from any harm which could arise from their participation in the study. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the team has developed a number of policies and procedures related to Child Safeguarding. These include:

- A *Child Welfare and Protection Policy* which is regularly reviewed and updated.
- The appointment of a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for the project. This person is responsible for ensuring **Growing Up in Ireland** is fully compliant with all child protection requirements set out in the Children First Act 2015 and for reporting any concerns to TUSLA.
- A procedure for ensuring both Head Office staff and field interviewers receive appropriate Child Protection Training.
- A procedure for the reporting to TUSLA or other relevant authorities of child protection or welfare concerns which come to our attention in the course of study implementation.
- A procedure for the vetting, recruitment, selection and training of staff (Head Office and field interviewers).
- A procedure for the management of allegations of abuse of a child against any staff member.

All processes, procedures, questionnaires and tests administered in the **Growing Up in Ireland** study are subject to external review by oversight committees and an independent *Research Ethics Committee (REC)*.

These policies and procedures have been developed in line with the requirements set out in the *Children First Act 2015* and *Children First: National Guidance 2017*. Implementation is an ongoing process and all policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated. All policies listed, as well as our Risk Assessment, are available on request.

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

Signed: 

Dorothy Watson, Research Professor, ESRI  
Principal Investigator  
**Growing Up in Ireland** project  
Economic and Social Research Institute  
Whitaker Square  
Sir John Rogerson's Quay  
Dublin 2

If you would like further information about **Growing Up in Ireland's** commitment to safeguarding children or our child protection policies and procedures please contact Aoife Murphy ([aoife.murphy@esri.ie](mailto:aoife.murphy@esri.ie); 01-8632000), Freephone 1800 200 434 or email [growingup@esri.ie](mailto:growingup@esri.ie).