

Proposed Classification Standard for Registered Charities in Ireland

It is proposed that, when providing the information, a charity must select at least one and may select up to two categories from the primary classification and at least one and up to two categories from the secondary classification options associated with each primary classification choice. Some classification groups have been further broken down into a secondary sub-level to provide additional clarity where the primary or secondary levels are very broad, where this is the case a charity must select at least one and may select up to two categories.

Primary Classification Groups:

1. [Social and Community Services](#)
2. [Health](#)
3. [Housing and Community Development](#)
4. [Environment and Animals](#)
5. [Community relations, reconciliation, advocacy and civic responsibility](#)
6. [Philanthropy, Benevolence and Volunteering](#)
7. [Education and Research](#)
8. [Religion](#)
9. [Arts and Culture](#)
10. [International](#)

Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level	Explanatory note/examples
<p>1. Social and Community Services</p> <p>This primary classification is most compatible with operations which further the charitable purpose(s) of:</p> <p>The prevention or relief of poverty or economic hardship</p> <p>Any other purpose that is of benefit to the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The advancement of community welfare including the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health or disability - The integration of those who are disadvantaged, and their full participation, in society 	Homeless services	Accommodation	e.g. hostel
		Food and/or clothing	e.g. soup kitchen
		Medical / health	e.g. dental services
		Other services (not elsewhere classified)	e.g. access to showers and toilets, haircuts, drop-in centres
	Provision of community centre/resource centre		
	Provision of recreation ground/open space		e.g. community playground
	Provision of food or other vital goods or services		e.g. foodbanks
	Local/community based services and supports	disability or ill-health, including mental health services	e.g. provision of equipment
		services for refugees or immigrants	e.g. translation services, assistance with housing or benefits
		child day care services	e.g. community creches
		childrens services	e.g. provision of Christmas gifts
		family services	e.g. lone parents network
		youth services	e.g. youth centre
		child or youth organisation	e.g. scouts, guides
		services for older people	e.g. meals on wheels
		services for a defined group	not elsewhere classified e.g. Travellers, LGBT community
		member serving organisation	e.g. veteran's association, professional or sectoral associations
Emergency / disaster relief or rescue services (in Ireland)		e.g. flooding relief, mountain rescue services	
Social inclusion resources and supports	vocational rehabilitation	e.g. job training for the unemployed	
	working to remove barriers to inclusion	e.g. provision of wheelchair accessible transport, ex-offender programmes	

Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level	Explanatory note/examples
<p data-bbox="203 240 344 272">2. Health</p> <p data-bbox="154 316 591 416">This primary classification is most compatible with operations which further the charitable purpose(s) of:</p> <p data-bbox="154 459 618 523">Any other purpose that is of benefit to the community</p> <ul data-bbox="203 531 584 667" style="list-style-type: none"> - The promotion of health, including the prevention or relief of sickness, disease or human suffering 	Medical treatment	Hospital – general	primarily inpatient
		Hospital – speciality	primarily inpatient e.g. maternity
		Hospice / terminal care	primarily inpatient
		Outpatient (non-residential)	e.g. medical centre
		Rehabilitation or aftercare	inpatient or outpatient
	Residential care or nursing home		including convalescence and respite care
	Mental health	Residential mental health services	inpatient care e.g. addiction treatment
		Non-residential mental health services	e.g. suicide prevention, counselling services
	Other health services	Complementary or alternative therapy	e.g. yoga
		Health education or sickness prevention	e.g. first aid training, promotion of healthy eating
		Emergency response	e.g. first responders, community defibrillator, ambulance service
		Patient or survivor comforts or support	e.g. hospital radio, hospital appointment transport services, stroke support groups
		Carer or health staff support	e.g. nurses association
Healthcare services (not elsewhere classified)			

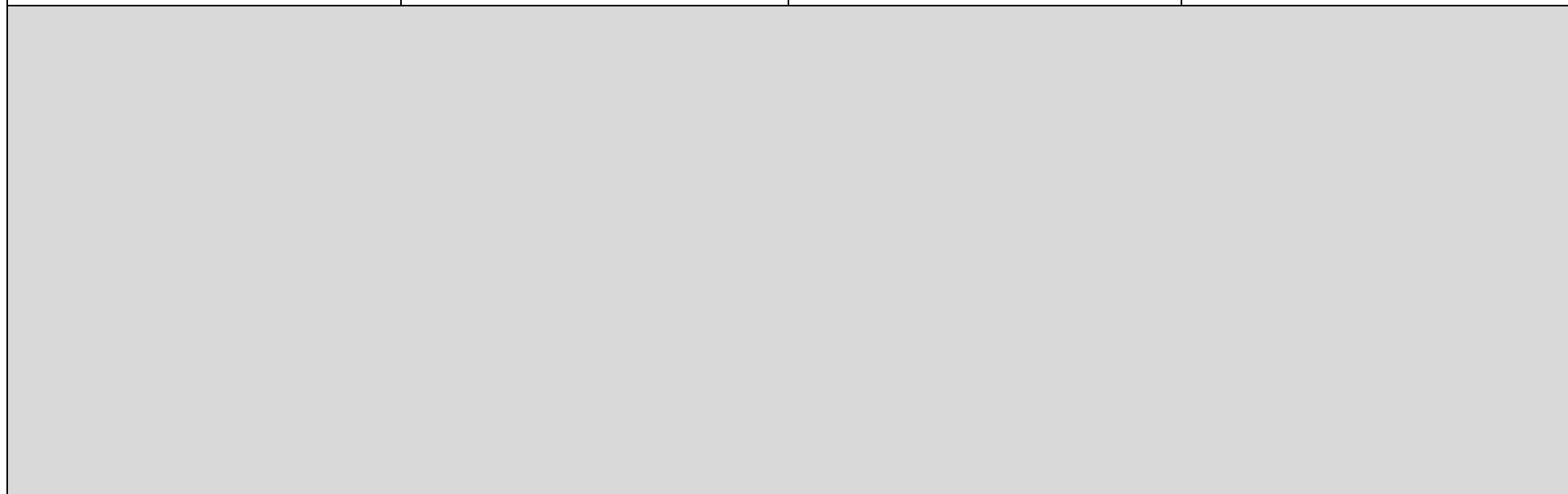
Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level	Explanatory note/examples
<p>3. Housing and Community Development</p> <p>This primary classification is most compatible with operations which further the charitable purpose(s) of:</p> <p>The prevention or relief of poverty or economic hardship</p> <p>Any other purpose that is of benefit to the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The advancement of community welfare including the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health or disability; - The advancement of community development, including rural or urban regeneration; - The integration of those who are disadvantaged, and the promotion of their full participation, in society 	Accommodation or housing	Approved Housing Body	Charity is included on the Register of Housing Bodies with Approved Status Under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992
		Emergency housing	e.g. domestic violence refuge (does not include the provision of accommodation to the homeless such as a hostel)
		Independent or assisted living	
		Provision of accommodation or housing	not elsewhere classified
		Housing advocacy and/or homelessness prevention	
	Urban or rural regeneration		e.g. providing rural transport, upgrading cityscapes, improving digital connectivity
	Community or local development and improvement		e.g. community radio, Tidy towns

Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level	Explanatory note/examples
<p data-bbox="203 240 613 272">4. Environment and Animals</p> <p data-bbox="154 316 591 416">This primary classification is most compatible with operations which further the charitable purpose(s) of:</p> <p data-bbox="154 459 618 523">Any other purpose that is of benefit to the community</p> <ul data-bbox="203 531 602 738" style="list-style-type: none"> - The protection of the natural environment; - The advancement of environmental sustainability; - The prevention or relief of suffering of animals 	<p data-bbox="651 236 1066 300">Protection and conservation of the natural environment</p>	<p data-bbox="1137 236 1597 300">conservation of flora, fauna or natural environment generally</p>	<p data-bbox="1632 236 2063 300">e.g. native trees and plants, national parks</p>
		<p data-bbox="1137 308 1473 371">conservation of particular geographical area or habitat</p>	<p data-bbox="1632 308 1928 339">e.g. the Burren, wetlands</p>
		<p data-bbox="1137 379 1559 451">conservation of a particular species zoo, wildlife park, nature reserve</p>	<p data-bbox="1632 379 1727 411">e.g. bats</p>
		<p data-bbox="651 467 992 499">Environmental sustainability</p>	<p data-bbox="1137 467 1458 531">Sustainable development / biodiversity</p>
	<p data-bbox="1137 571 1541 603">Conservation of natural resources</p>		<p data-bbox="1632 571 2040 603">e.g. promoting water conservation</p>
	<p data-bbox="1137 659 1570 691">Pollution control or waste reduction</p>		<p data-bbox="1632 659 1989 722">e.g. recycling initiatives, beach cleaning</p>
	<p data-bbox="651 730 837 762">Animal Welfare</p>	<p data-bbox="1137 730 1559 762">Rescue, rehabilitation or re-homing</p>	
		<p data-bbox="1137 778 1451 810">Animal sanctuary / shelter</p>	
		<p data-bbox="1137 826 1361 858">Veterinary services</p>	

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<p data-bbox="203 240 584 347">5. Community relations, reconciliation, advocacy and civic responsibility</p> <p data-bbox="154 392 591 491">This primary classification is most compatible with operations which further the charitable purpose(s) of:</p> <p data-bbox="154 536 618 596">Any other purpose that is of benefit to the community</p> <ul data-bbox="203 608 607 922" style="list-style-type: none"> - The advancement of conflict resolution or reconciliation; - The promotion of religious or racial harmony and harmonious community relations; - The promotion of civic responsibility or voluntary work 	Promotion of civic responsibility		e.g. projects promoting equality, organisations working to reduce anti-social behaviour
	Promotion of public safety		e.g. farm safety, water safety
	Victim support		
	Provision of information or advice or working to raise awareness of an issue		e.g. budgeting and financial management
	Social advocacy		e.g. advocating for better access to public buildings for people with disabilities, organisations assisting ethnic minorities or other defined groups
	Conflict resolution or reconciliation		e.g. family mediation services, facilitating cross community dialogue, restorative justice
	Religious or racial harmony or harmonious community relations	Racial harmony	e.g. integration between refugees and local residents
		Religious harmony	e.g. facilitating dialogue between Muslims and Christians
Harmonious community relations		e.g. community festival which encourages appreciation and respect for different cultures	

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<p data-bbox="203 240 622 312">6. Philanthropy, Benevolence and Volunteering</p> <p data-bbox="152 352 591 453">This primary classification is most compatible with operations which further the charitable purpose(s) of:</p> <p data-bbox="152 496 618 560">Any other purpose that is of benefit to the community</p> <ul data-bbox="203 568 598 815" style="list-style-type: none"> - The promotion of civic responsibility or voluntary work; - The advancement of the efficient and effective use of the property of charitable organisations <p data-bbox="152 855 598 995">With regard to fundraising, grant giving and benevolence this primary classification is compatible with any charitable purpose</p>	Volunteering / voluntary sector services and promotion		e.g. linking volunteers with volunteering opportunities, volunteer representative groups
	Providing services which improve the efficiency and effectiveness of charities		e.g. charity representative organisations, charity trustee training
	Fundraising		e.g. a charity which is set up to collect and distribute salary based deductions or online donations to other charities or organisations, 'Friends of...'
	Grant giving		Private grant-making foundations, corporate or community foundations
	Benevolent association or fund		

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<p>7. Education and Research</p> <p>This primary classification is most compatible with operations which further the charitable purpose(s) of:</p> <p>Advancement of education</p>	Pre-Primary		pre-school organisations other than childcare	
	Primary level			
	Secondary level			
	Third level		institutions offering courses to academic degree level including medical schools	
	Vocational or technical		e.g. skills training, acting, secretarial	
	Adult and continuing education		e.g. language courses, literacy programmes, promotion of science	
	Education support and student services		e.g. homework clubs, services for disabled students	
	Research (including dissemination of results)	health and medical		
		science and technology		
		other research		not elsewhere classified



Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level	Explanatory note/examples	
<p>8. Religion¹</p> <p>This primary classification is most compatible with operations which further the charitable purpose(s) of: Advancement of religion</p> <p>Religion</p> <p>Christian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baptist - Church of Ireland - Methodist - Presbyterian - Roman Catholic - Evangelical - Non-denominational - Orthodox - Other Christian – please specify² <p>Judaism</p> <p>Islam</p> <p>Buddhism</p> <p>Hinduism</p> <p>Sikhism</p> <p>Multi-faith or interfaith</p> <p>Other Religion – please specify³</p>	Religious order or community			
	Place of Worship		e.g. church, mosque, synagogue, shrine or other place where religious services or rituals are held	
	Religious association or organisation	Pastoral care / outreach		
		Missionary/evangelical		
		Maintaining churchyards / other burial places		
		Raising awareness of religious beliefs and practices		
		Interfaith activities		
	Diocesan or parish organisation	Pilgrimages or retreats		

¹ This section of the standard will have 3 levels of classification – charity will be required to indicate the religion as well as two levels of classification

² Suggest allowing a free text entry here – alternative is to just have ‘other Christian’ as the option

³ Suggest allowing a free text entry here – alternative is to just have ‘other religion’ as the option

Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level	Explanatory note/examples
<p>9. Arts and Culture</p> <p>This primary classification is most compatible with operations which further the charitable purpose(s) of:</p> <p>Any other purpose that is of benefit to the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or sciences 	Arts and crafts	A place to view/appreciate arts or crafts	e.g. art gallery, theatre, exhibition space, concert hall
		Promoting participation in arts or crafts	e.g. amateur dramatics, choir, orchestra, pipe band
		Festival or event	e.g. opera festival, literary festival
	History, heritage and culture	Historical events, culture and traditions	including commemoration of historical events or people, or the heritage or traditions of a locality e.g. famine memorials, county show, storytelling and folklore, Irish language events
		Historic buildings or ancient sites	e.g. castle, ring fort, battle ground
		Providing a place to hold cultural events	
		Learned society or institution	includes scientific bodies
	Museum or library		includes archives and artefacts
	Film or media		

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<p>10. International</p> <p>A charity which has operations in any country outside of the island of Ireland should select this primary classification as one of their options – this includes charities which fund organisations based outside Ireland</p>	Emergency / disaster relief		e.g. famine relief, emergency shelter
	Infrastructure sustainability and development		e.g. well boring and sanitation, building or equipping health centres or schools, improving farming methods
	Humanitarian or environmental		e.g. facilitating cross cultural dialogue, preventing people trafficking, animal conservation