

The Charity Classification Standard

When deciding their classification, trustees must first decide which primary (or main) classification group their charity falls into. Charities must select one (and can select up to two categories) from the following primary classification groups:

1. Social and Community Services
2. Health and Care Services
3. Community Development and Housing
4. Environment and Animals
5. Community relations, Reconciliation, Advocacy and Civic Responsibility
6. Funding, Philanthropy, Benevolence and Volunteering
7. Education and Research
8. Religion
9. Arts and Culture
10. International Activities

Every primary group is subdivided into a number of secondary groups to further categorise the activities. When a charity selects a primary classification group, it will then be able to select up to two secondary groups linked to that primary group. Many of the secondary groups also have another layer or sub-classification which add additional detail to the classification.

Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level
<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
		Food and/or clothing
		Medical / health
		Other homeless services (not elsewhere classified)
	Provision of community centre/resource centre	Community centre / hall
		Resource centre
	Provision of recreation ground/community space	
	Provision of food or other vital goods or services	
	Working to prevent poverty	
	Local/community based services and supports	Physical disability or ill-health, including mental health services
		services for people with an intellectual disability
		services for refugees or immigrants
		family services
		services for older people
		services for a defined group
		member serving organisation
	Child or youth services	child care services
		Child focussed services
		youth centre / club
		child or youth organisation
youth work / development		
Emergency / disaster relief or rescue services (in Ireland)		
Social inclusion resources and supports	vocational rehabilitation	
	services for the unemployed	
	working to remove barriers to inclusion	

Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level
<p>2. Health and Care Services</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 promotion of health, including the prevention or relief of sickness, disease or human suffering 	Medical treatment	Hospital – primarily inpatient
		Hospital – inpatient and outpatient
		Hospital – speciality
		Hospice / terminal care
		Outpatient (non-residential)
		Rehabilitation or aftercare
	Residential care or nursing home	
	Mental health	Residential mental health services
		Non-residential mental health services
		Emotional support and mental wellbeing
	Other health services	Complementary or alternative therapy
		Health education or sickness prevention
		Emergency response
		Patient or survivor comforts or support
		health staff support
Carers and carer support		
Patient organisations		
Supporting medical/health research		
Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level
<p>3. Community Development and Housing</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>	Accommodation or housing	Approved Housing Body
		Emergency housing
		Independent or assisted living
		student housing
		Provision of accommodation or housing not elsewhere classified
		Housing advocacy and/or homelessness prevention

<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 	Urban or rural regeneration	
	Community or local development and improvement	
	Economic development and social enterprise	
Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level
<p>4. Environment and Animals</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 protection of the natural environment; - The advancement of environmental sustainability; - The prevention or relief of suffering of animals 	Protection and conservation of the natural environment	conservation of flora, fauna or natural environment generally
		conservation of particular geographical area or habitat
		conservation of a particular species
		zoo, wildlife park, nature reserve
	Environmental sustainability	Sustainable development / biodiversity
		Conservation of natural resources
		Pollution control or waste reduction
		Circular economy
	Animal Welfare	Rescue, rehabilitation or re-homing
		Animal sanctuary / shelter
		Veterinary services
		Animal care and welfare education

Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level	
<p>5. Community relations, reconciliation, advocacy and civic responsibility</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 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		
	Promotion of public safety		
	Safeguarding and protection		
	Victim support		
	Provision of information or advice or working to raise awareness of an issue		
	Social advocacy		
	Conflict resolution or reconciliation		
	Religious or racial harmony or harmonious community relations	Racial harmony	
		Religious harmony	
		Harmonious community relations	
Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level	
<p>6. Funding, Philanthropy, Benevolence and Volunteering</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 promotion of civic responsibility or voluntary work; 	Volunteering / voluntary sector services and promotion		
	Providing services which improve the efficiency and effectiveness of charities		
	Fundraising		
	Grant making	To individuals	
		To other charities or organisations	
	Benevolent association or fund		
	Funding, consultancy or other charity support services		

<p>- The advancement of the efficient and effective use of the property of charitable organisations</p> <p>With regard to fundraising, grant giving and benevolence this primary classification is compatible with any charitable purpose</p>			
Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level	
<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		
	Primary level		
	Secondary level		
	Special needs education		
	Third level		
	Post graduate		
	Vocational or technical		
	Adult and continuing education		
	Informal, social or complementary education		
	Education supports		Educational bursaries or funding
			Education trust, patronage, management or governance
		Parents associations or councils	
		Student services	
Research (including dissemination of results)			
Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level	
<p>8. Religion</p> <p>This primary classification is most compatible with operations which further the charitable purpose(s) of:</p> <p>Advancement of religion</p>	Religious orders, societies, monastics or other religious community		
	Religious practice / worship	Provision and maintenance of a building or site used for religious practice, prayer or solitude	
		Ceremonies or rituals	
	Congregation / congregational living		

Religion e.g. Christianity Judaism Islam Hinduism Sikhism Multi-faith or interfaith Other Religion	Faith based activities	Pastoral care / social justice / outreach
		Providing support
		Missionary / evangelism
		Maintaining religious sites, burial places or artefacts
		Spirituality / spiritual wellbeing
		Ecumenical and interfaith activities
		Religious communications, publishing or media
		Alms / charitable giving
		Pilgrimages or retreats
		Advancing religion through instruction and study
		Diocesan or parish organisation
Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level
9. Arts and Culture This primary classification is most compatible with operations which further the charitable purpose(s) of: Any other purpose that is of benefit to the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or sciences 	Arts	Arts centre, art gallery, exhibition space or similar
		Theatre, concert hall or similar
		Visual arts and architecture
		Performing arts
		Literature
		Film or media
		Crafts
		Festival or event
	History, heritage and culture	Arts resources or support
		Historical events, culture and traditions
		Promotion of the Irish language
		Local history or genealogy
		Preservation of built heritage or ancient sites

		Providing a place to hold cultural events
		Learned society or institution
	Museum or library	
Primary classification	Secondary classification	Secondary classification sub level
10. International Activities A charity which primarily carries out its activities 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	Emergency / disaster relief	
	Infrastructure - sustainability and development	
	Agricultural development / food security	
	Humanitarian	
	Environment and conservation	