

Tipperary Dance Platform Child Safeguarding Statement

Tipperary Dance Platform is an organisation that provides year-round activities and events, including an international dance festival. The definition of 'child' or 'young person' in this policy document refers to anyone under the age of 18.

Name of services being provided:

- Dance workshops/classes
- Dance programs in schools and youth centres. These may include some or all of the following:
 - Workshops in schools and/or other venues such as theatres
 - Creation, rehearsal and performances of artistic works by the children
- Performances of artistic work for children and young people.

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm: Dance Workshops, Dance classes, presentation of shows and films, creation and rehearsal of dance works and/or dance films with children, performances for and/or by children.

Our organization believes that the best interests of children and young people attending our workshops are paramount. We believe that all children attending our workshops have the right to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and to have their views taken into consideration in all decisions affecting them. Our guiding principles are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and current legislation such as the Children First Act 2015, Child Care Act 1991, Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 and the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012.

Our guiding principles are applicable to all paid staff, artists, volunteers and students on work placement within our organisation. All staff, artists, volunteers and students must sign and abide by these guiding principles and our child safeguarding procedures.

Risk Assessment

Section 2 of the Children First act 2015 defines harm as the following: *“harm means in relation to a child – (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to affect the child’s health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child.”*

We have carried out an assessment of any potential areas for harm to a child while availing of our services. 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	Risk of harm not being recognized by Tipperary Dance Platform	Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training, induction and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
2	Risk of harm not being reported correctly by Tipperary Dance Platform	All Tipperary Dance Platform Staff and Volunteers have access to the reporting procedure of child protection concerns to Tusla. This information includes information on the role and responsibilities of the Designated Liaison Person and Mandated Persons.
3	Risk of harm due to bullying of a young person	All staff and volunteers are given our Anti Bullying Policy in order to guide any/all dealings with incidences of bullying within our organisation.
4	Risk of young person being harmed by Tipperary Dance Platform staff member or volunteer	<p>Procedure in place for the safe recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers to work with young people.</p> <p>Garda Vetting is followed by all staff and volunteers working with young people prior to commencement of role</p> <p>Code of behaviour made available to all staff and volunteers.</p>

5	Risk of continued harm arising from the mishandling of an allegation of misconduct or abuse by a young person against a staff member or volunteer of Tipperary Dance Platform	Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff and volunteers of a young person participating in activity provided by Tipperary Dance Platform
6	Risk of harm caused by Tipperary Dance Platform staff member or volunteer communicating in an inappropriate manner with young people	Code of Behaviour sent to all staff and volunteers prior to commencement of work
7	Risk of harm caused to a young person due to an insufficient number of trained staff present whilst participating in a Tipperary Dance Platform Project	The adult to young person ratio abided by where possible is the guideline of 10 young people to 1 adult staff member plus one other adult. (National Youth Council of Ireland, 2014) Code of Behaviour for Staff and Volunteers
8	Risk of harm caused to a young person by a Tipperary Dance Platform staff member or volunteer through inappropriate use of video/images	Policy on use of images and audio-visual content of young people Code of Behaviour for Staff and Volunteers
9	Risk of harm to young person from third parties where using third party venues for workshops and rehearsals	Ensuring correct adult to young person ratio is maintained Code of Behaviour for Staff and Volunteers
10	Risk of harm to young person due to inadequate supervision	Ensuring the space of work is safe and suitable for use for young people Ensuring that the space is designated solely for the use of the young people participating within the workshop

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 procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Code of behaviour for all staff
- Reporting of suspected or disclosed abuse
- Confidentiality Statement
- Recruitment and Staff Selection
- Managing and supervision of Staff
- Involvement of primary carers
- Allegations of misconduct or abuse by staff
- Complaints and comments Procedure
- Incidents and accidents

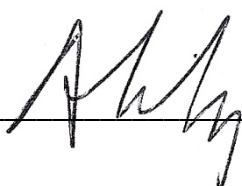
All procedures listed are available upon request.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. To do this, the relevancy of this statement and our practical responses to it must be continually updated and reviewed according to best practices. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in May 2023, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____ (Director)



Date: 16 May 2021

The designated member of staff dealing with Child Welfare queries is **Michelle Cahill**, producer of Tipperary Dance Platform.

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