



**CORK ARTS THEATRE
CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

Name of service being provided:

- Theatre venue for the purposes of performances
- Providing space for rehearsals and performances to incoming Stage Schools and academies

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

Cork Arts Theatre is a 100-seater community theatre venue with a varied, year-round programme of performances, including both amateur and professional productions. It was established in 1976 as a club by and for the arts community in Cork and it has a particular focus on encouraging emerging talent and new writers. The venue hosts a number of festivals; Cork Midsummer Festival, Sounds from a Safe Harbour, and Munster Literature's International Short Story and Poetry festivals. The venue is also occasionally rented by local Stage Schools and Academies for their student performances.

At Cork Arts Theatre, the care and safety of all children¹ and young people taking part in activities within the building is our primary concern. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child / young person is paramount.

We believe it is important that all people who work with children and young people are aware of the issues of good practice and their responsibility to safeguard the welfare of children and young people.

At Cork Arts Theatre we recognise that all children and young people have the right to freedom from abuse².

We have assigned a Designated Liaison Person who takes responsibility for child safety and acts as the main point of contact for parents, children and young people and outside agencies. We ensure access to confidential information is restricted to the Designated Liaison Person or appropriate external authorities.

¹ As per the Children First Guidelines, a child is defined as an unmarried person under the age of 18 years.

² As per the Children First Guidelines, abuse is defined as neglect, bullying, emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse

Risk Assessment

Section 2 of the Children First Act 2015 defines harm as follows: ‘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 seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or, (b) sexual abuse of the child.’

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child and young person while using our resources. 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	Rental of spaces in the building to third party groups working with children	<p>Procedure for Rental Clients to be included in rental contracts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All clients renting space to run rehearsals or performances must be aware of and adhere to the Cork Arts Theatre Child Safeguarding Policy and Statement • All clients are expected to adhere to best practice in their own procedures for rehearsals or performances • In all rental cases the client is responsible for the health and safety / conduct and child protection of the young people involved. • All participants must remain in the spaces hired unless authorised. • Children changing their clothes, or being changed in a public area is not permitted. • Parents/Guardians must wait in the agreed area for their children.
2	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while in Cork Arts Theatre.	<p>No children allowed in the building without supervision. Any performing school / theatre company who has a child in the cast who are renting the venue must provide their Child Safeguarding policy to CAT management in advance of occupying the venue, and CAT’s designated liaison person will make contact with their named designated person</p>

		regarding adequate supervision.
3	Risk of harm not being recognized and / or not being reported properly and promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Welfare policies and procedures implemented and up to date • Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers • Clearly documented reporting mechanism • Appointment, training and clear identification of Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison person

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the following documents:

- Children First Act 2015.
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017).
- 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 and young people while they are availing of our resources and are contained in our Child Safeguarding Policy:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our services;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

Vulnerable Adults³

The procedures contained in our Child Safeguarding Policy extend to the provision of services to vulnerable adults.

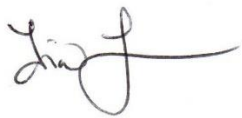
³ The HSE defines a Vulnerable Person as an adult who is restricted in capacity to guard himself/herself against harm or exploitation or to report such harm or exploitation, as a result of physical or intellectual impairment.

Implementation

We understand that implementation is an ongoing process. Cork Arts Theatre is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while engaging with our services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on the 6th October 2024, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: FIN FLYNN, Theatre Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fin Flynn', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Cork Arts Theatre's Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015 and Designated Liaison Person is:

Fin Flynn fin@corkartstheatre.com

And the Deputy Liaison:

Jamie Feehily technical@corkartstheatre.com