Dublin
Dance
Festival

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Name of organisation: Dublin Dance Festival, Festival House, 12 East Essex Street, Dublin 2

Dublin Dance Festival's services and activities to children and young people: Dublin Dance Festival (DDF) presents outstanding dance experiences for the widest possible audience each year in May and at other times of the year. We provide opportunities for children and young people to experience dance through the dance productions we present on stage and through participative dance projects, workshops and initiatives which we lead. We also engage with children and young people through research and development work, seminars and discussions.

The Board and Executive team at Dublin Dance Festival are fully committed to making sure that children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm while they are in contact or working with the organisation. We recognise that we have a duty of care on occasions where children, young people, vulnerable adults and older people are working with or availing of the services of the organisation. We take responsibility for ensuring good practice, appropriate policies and procedures and the fulfilment of our legal obligations in this area.

Principles to safeguard children from harm: Our principles and procedures follow below. These should be observed to ensure, in so far as possible, that children are safe from harm while attending or participating in Festival events. These guiding principles apply to core and seasonal staff who work with the Festival, to our Board and to volunteers, interns and students who are placed with the Festival.

- DDF staff and artists/facilitators/volunteers who work directly with children through our projects and programmes are Garda vetted
- Designated staff have undertaken Tusla online Child Protection Training – Children First E-Learning
- Children who see our work and take part in our programmes will be accompanied by a parent/guardian, teacher or group leader, chaperone who has been approved by the children's parents
- Parents/guardians or teachers should inform DDF staff if there are any specific needs required during a child's participation at an event

- For workshops and events, there will always be two staff members, parents, guardians, artists present for children's events and we will maintain a register of all those entering the workshop/event/programme
- DDF will report all child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla/Gardaí

Risk Assessment:

	Risk identified	**Procedure in place to manage risk identified**
1	Non-compliance with DDF's Child Protection Policy	All DDF staff and volunteers who are working with children are provided with the Child Protection Policy and Code of Behaviour. All breaches of the Child Protection Policy will be reported to the relevant line manager. Staff and volunteers will be advised and inducted on any changes to the policy annually. The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years.
2	Receipt of complaint of alleged child abuse where a DDF staff member or volunteer is the alleged perpetrator.	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla. Internal processes are in place where the allegation concerns an employee/volunteer.
2	Delay in making referrals to Tusla	All staff understand they should make referrals without delay and are supported to ensure they can act promptly and contact the Mandated Person or Tusla when they deem a referral may be required.
4	Receipt of complaint of alleged child abuse where a parent, guardian, artist or facilitator is the alleged perpetrator.	All DDF staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla.
5	Child/young person makes a disclosure to a member of staff	All DDF staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla.
6	Use of photographic materials	Consent from parents/guardians is requested for use of images of individual children for promotional material. Strict proofing and editing procedures are in place to ensure that all images used of children are appropriate.
7	Dealing with difficult themes/ content/ subject matter	DDF recognises that as a contemporary dance festival it will present artworks which may have difficult themes/content/ subject matter. We will ensure that children/young people who may attend or participate in festival events, along with their parents/guardians are fully briefed about the content and context of the work. Appropriate supervision,

		safeguards and supports will be agreed with parents/guardians and made available.
6	A suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of staff.	All DDF staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla.

Procedures: Dublin Dance Festival believes that children should be absolutely respected and kept safe from harm while engaging with the Festival. Our guiding principles are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Tulsa'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. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our aim to safeguard children while they are participating in the Festival

- 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 to work with children
- 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 or the Gardaí as appropriate
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are 'Mandated Persons' as defined under the Children First Act 2015
- Procedure for appointing a Mandated Person

Implementation: We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. We will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years or sooner if necessary due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

Signed

Designated Liaison Person: Carina McGrail, Executive Director

Deputy Designated Liaison Person: Jazmin Chiodi, Artistic Director

Our Contact Information: Dublin Dance Festival, Festival House, 12 East Essex Street, Dublin 2 Tel: 01 679 8658. For queries in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement please contact Carina McGrail, Executive Producer & Mandated Person, at the address shown or at carina@dublindancefestival.ie or Jazmin Chiodi at jazmin@dublindancefestival.ie

Implemented April 2018. Statement reviewed 09.01.2025