

Child Safeguarding Statement

NAME AND DETAILS OF SERVICE PROVIDER AND NATURE OF SERVICE.

The National Ballet of Ireland (Ballet Ireland) can be defined as stated by Children First Act 2015 as a service which provides educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social and physical activities for children.

Ballet Ireland is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee governed by a Board of Directors.

It recognises it holds ultimate responsibility for the wellbeing of participants and staff (including volunteers).

Through its educational programme, Ballet Ireland delivers a range of youth and intergenerational activities involving young people aged 5-18 including: Classes, Workshops, Talks, Performance Projects and Exchange Visits.

PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

In line with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) we are committed to safeguarding the children in our care and to child-centred practice in all our work with young people.

We are committed to upholding the rights of every young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, and heard.

This statement brings together Ballet Ireland's policies and procedures, which ensures our commitment is enshrined in all aspects of our work with young people.

It is targeted at all adults involved in the work of Ballet Ireland.

Parents and young people will be informed of relevant policies and procedures as they relate to their participation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

We have carried out an assessment of any potential 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, available on request.

RISK IDENTIFIED	PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO MANAGE RISK IDENTIFIED
Young person being harmed by company personnel.	Policy & procedures for safe recruitment. Garda Vetting. Child Protection Policy; Code of Behaviour: Staff & Good Practice Guidelines
Harm caused by inappropriate relationship/communications between Company personnel and a young person.	Child Protection Policy; Code of Behaviour: Staff & Good Practice Guidelines
Harm due to lack of or delayed reporting.	Child Protection Policy. Reporting Procedures. Role of DLP.

Harm due to inadequate supervision of young people.	Code of Behaviour: Staff Policy on adult/youth ratios. Health and Safety Guidelines.
Harm due to inappropriate use of young people's images/data online, technologically or in print.	Policy on confidentiality. Data Protection Policy.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children's First Act 2015, *Children's 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.

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

BI Child Protection Policies and Procedures are provided to all our staff and workers and are available to parents/carers and our collaborating partners on request. They can also be found on our website: www.balletireland.ie

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Ballet Ireland 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 activities. This statement has been provided to all staff, volunteers and all persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request, is available at all venues in which we operate and has been published on the Ballet Ireland website. A copy has been made available to Tusla.

This statement and our Child Protection Policies will be reviewed again on or before 27th January 2027.

Signed  Karen Lowey, Chair, Ballet Ireland

For queries please contact the Relevant Person: Stephen Brennan, Child Protection Officer | 086 366 1057 | stephen@balletireland.ie