



Child Safeguarding Statement Polish Arts Festival

1. Polish Arts Festival is a multidisciplinary arts organisation located in Limerick at Oakview Lodge, Kishikirk, Ballysimon.
2. Polish Arts Festival is committed to providing a safe environment and a positive experience for all children and young people with whom we interact. a young-person centred approach in our work. We undertake to provide a safe environment and positive experience, the welfare of the young person being of paramount importance. We will adhere to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017).

We have developed policies and procedures to ensure this commitment is enshrined in all aspects of the arts centre. Polish Arts Festival Welfare and Child Protection Policy gathers all policies and procedures that relate to work with young people. We provide cultural programme for children and young people aged 6 months - 18 years. We carry out a range of cultural activities including:

- Workshops
- Theatre Productions
- Rehearsals
- Exhibition and tours

3. 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 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
Risk of harm not being recognised by Polish Arts Festival personnel (staff/workshop facilitators)	Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm

<p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by Polish Arts Festival personnel (staff/workshop facilitators)</p>	<p>All personnel are provided with procedures for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla. Including information on the role and responsibilities of the Designated Liaison Person and Mandated Persons</p>
<p>Risk of young person being harmed by Polish Arts Festival personnel (staff/workshop facilitators)</p>	<p>Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff and workshop facilitators to work with children including procedure for Garda Vetting.</p> <p>Policy for the Supervision/ training and support of staff</p> <p>Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers</p>
<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of a young person</p>	<p>Anti-bullying policy</p> <p>Policy for the Supervision/ training and support of staff</p>
<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of young people</p>	<p>Policy on Adult/Young People Ratios</p> <p>Code of Behaviour for staff/facilitators</p>
<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/ communications between the centre's personnel and a young person</p>	<p>Policy on communications with young people</p> <p>Code of Behaviour for staff/facilitators</p>
<p>Risk of harm caused by youth theatre personnel communicating with young people in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.</p>	<p>Policy on Communications with young people</p>
<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images of young people</p>	<p>Data Protection and Retention Policy</p>
<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of young people's personal data.</p>	<p>Data Protection and Retention Policy and Confidentiality Policy</p>



4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015 and in line with *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*. 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 service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child/ young person availing of our service
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons; We have no Mandated Person. Our DLP is Aleksandra Rosiak at alexriverbank@gmail.com, Phone: 0858775515.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person. The Relevant person for Polish Arts Festival is Justyna Cwojdzńska, justyna.cwojdzinska@gmail.com, Phone: 0863924644.
- Code of behaviour for all staff
- Policy Statement on the use of Polish Arts Festival by other organisations
- Reporting of suspected or disclosed abuse
- Confidentiality Statement
- Staff recruitment, training and management Policy
- Policy Statement on the involvement of primary carers
- Procedures to deal with allegations of misconduct or abuse by staff
- Policy Statement on Circulating information to staff and Complaints
- Procedures for the recording of incidents and accidents.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. 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 on 14.04.2023 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____ (Provider)

Justyna Cwojdzńska, Managing Director, Polish Arts Festival.

For queries, please contact Alex Rosiak Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.