

Name of Organisation: Dublin Theatre Festival, Festival House, 12 Essex Street East, Temple Bar, Dublin 2.

Dublin Theatre Festival's activities and services for children and young people:

Established in 1957, Dublin Theatre Festival (DTF) presents an annual programme of Irish and international theatre productions, including a season of work for children aged 2 to 12 years, in partnership with The Ark children's cultural centre.

The Board and Management of Dublin Theatre Festival are fully committed to making sure that children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm while they are in contact with or working with the organisation. We recognise our legal obligations in this area.

Principles to safeguard children from harm:

- DTF staff, artists, facilitators and volunteers who work directly with children are Garda vetted
- Designated staff have undertaken Tusla – Child and Family Agency's Child Protection Training - Children First E-Learning
- Children who attend performances or take part in other programme activities will be accompanied by a parent/guardian, teacher or group leader who has been approved by the children's parents
- Parents or guardians are required to inform a DTF representative if there are any specific needs to be supported during a child's participation in an event
- For children's workshops and events, there will always be two total of staff members, parents, guardians or artists present and we will maintain a register of all those entering the workshop/event/programme
- DTF will report all child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla or the Gardaí where appropriate.

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.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Non-compliance with DTF's Child Protection Policy	All DTF 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 will be reviewed every 2 years
2	Receipt of complaint of alleged child abuse where a DTF 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.

3	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 a 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 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 staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla.
6	Photography and use of images	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	DTF ensures that children and young people who may attend or participate in festival events, along with their parents or guardians are fully briefed about the content and context of the work. Appropriate supervision, safeguards and supports will be agreed with parents or guardians and made available.
8	A suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of staff.	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla.

Procedures:

This 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 the risk assessment, the following procedures support Dublin Theatre Festival's intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

Implementation:

Dublin Theatre Festival recognises that implementation is an ongoing process. These guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures will be reviewed every two years or sooner, if necessary due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

Signed:

Maria Fleming, General Manager.

For Queries please contact: Maria Fleming, General Manager who is the Designated Liaison Person in relation to Child Safeguarding at Dublin Theatre Festival, Festival House, 12 east Essex Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. maria@dublintheatrefestival.com telephone 01 677 8439.