



Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of Service

Draíocht, A Centre for the Arts, Blanchardstown Town Centre, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Nature of Service provided and principles to safeguarding children from harm

Opened in 2001 and located in the heart of Dublin 15, Draíocht is a multidisciplinary, purpose-built space with two theatres, two galleries, an artist's studio, a workshop space and a café.

Draíocht has an extensive programme of work that spans across theatre, music, film, dance, family events, exhibitions, workshops and more.

Draíocht have 9 full time, 12 part time, 1 advisor, as well as the many freelance arts professionals, theatre companies, facilitators and artists in residence with whom we work.

Responding to the demographic of our area, Draíocht has a particular commitment to working with children. We believe that the welfare of children engaging with us is paramount. We believe in the value of the arts for children. These beliefs commit us to a child-centred approach in providing access to the arts in a safe and stimulating environment where children feel free to be their creative selves, to be protected from harm, listened to and heard.

Working collaboratively with artists of all disciplines, we journey with people of all ages, to enhance their lives through arts events, projects and initiatives both on and off site. We engage and work specifically with children through the following ways:

- Workshops and projects
- As audience members
- Through productions and performances
- Consultations
- Communications via the internet and social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

Our principles and procedures which should be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child is safe from harm, reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017*, the *Tusla Children First - Child Safeguarding Guide 2017*, and the *Children First Act 2015*, along with our unique Children's Charter, which sets out our promise to the children we serve.

Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing/participating in our projects and events. The areas of risk and the procedures identified to address these areas have been identified:

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Non-compliance with or lack of awareness of Draíocht's Child Protection Policy (e.g. delay in making a referral)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff, artists and project partners are provided with the Child Protection Policy. ▪ Staff are provided with training every two years to ensure they are equipped to deal with disclosures and to make referrals if required. ▪ Staff are encouraged to complete the Tusla Children First E-Learning programme. ▪ A list of staff who are mandated persons (if any) as defined by the Children's Act 2017. ▪ Availability of trained and supported to ensure prompt contact with the Mandated Person or Tusla when a referral may be required ▪ The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years.
2	Allegation of abuse where a member of Draíocht staff is the alleged perpetrator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla. ▪ Internal disciplinary processes are in place where the issue concerns an employee
3	Allegation of abuse where a parent/guardian, teacher, professional support worker is the alleged perpetrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla. ▪ The school/partner will be notified.
5	Child makes a disclosure to a member of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All staff are familiar with the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Person or directly to Tusla.
7	A suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla.
8	A project partner discloses something	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draíocht will engage with partners on joint report making where appropriate. Our Child Protection Policy is shared with partners in advance of projects and Draíocht receives a copy of Child protection Policies from all partners
9	Inappropriate use or dissemination of children/Young Person's images or information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure all staff adheres to social/media procedures including consent sought for the taking and use of images. ▪ All data on children comes under Draíocht GDPR code of practice
10	<p>The following risks may arise due to the use of external stage schools/companies/arts groups/schools/theatre companies of Draíocht's building for events:</p> <p>Risk to child/young person in backstage/dressing room/ working venue</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of young people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure risk assessment has been carried in accordance to Draíocht's Health and Safety policy ▪ Any external "service" utilising Draíocht's premises shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Be made aware of practice on Adult/Young People ratios in company contract and backstage maximum numbers. -Be responsible for the review and implementation of their own Child Protection Policy and supporting documents and provide Draíocht with a copy of same. ▪ Any concerns relating to these services shall be raised immediately with Designated Person.

Procedures

Our 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 our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of/participating in our programme and in our building:

- Draíocht's Children's charter
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers of a child availing of our services
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers 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.
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedures
- Complaints Policy/Procedures
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Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Draíocht 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 in our projects and programmes.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on the 09th of March 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Draíocht's Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015 and Designated Liaison Person is:

Sarah Beirne, Children's & Youth Arts Officer, Draíocht, Blanchardstown Town Centre, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 Telephone: +353 1 8098029 Email: sarah@draiocht.ie

And The Deputy Liaison:

Emer McGowan, Director, Draíocht, Blanchardstown Town Centre, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 Telephone: +353 1 8098027 Email: emer@draiocht.ie

All procedures listed above are available upon request.