

## Draíocht 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 has 9 full time staff, 12 part time staff, 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 and young people aged 0-18 years. 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-centered 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 Instagram.**

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.

### **Declaration of Guiding Principles- We believe that:**

- 1. The welfare and safety of every child and young person is paramount.**
- 2. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.**
- 3. All children and young people have an equal right to be respected as individuals regardless of their background and have the right to be protected from abuse.**
- 4. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.**
- 5. Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.**
- 6. Everyone who works with and for Draíocht must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.**

## 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	Risk of Harm (As defined in the children's first Act 2015) arising from Non-compliance with or not bring recognised by Draíocht personnel (e.g. delay in making a referral)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff, artists and project partners are provided with the Child Protection Policy &amp; Risk assessment.</li> <li>Staff are provided with training every two years to ensure they are equipped to deal with disclosures and to make referrals if required.</li> <li>Staff are encouraged to complete the Tusla Children First E-Learning programme.</li> <li>A list of staff who are mandated persons (if any) as defined by the Children's Act 2017.</li> <li>Availability of training and support to the Mandated Person to ensure prompt contact with Tusla when a referral may be required.</li> <li>The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years.</li> </ul>
2	Risk of Harm (As defined in the children's first Act 2015) of a child by a member of Staff/ Freelance worker /Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of all personnel who work with children.</li> <li>Procedure for training and supporting all personnel, along with a code of behaviour are in place.</li> <li>Internal disciplinary processes are in place where the issue concerns an employee.</li> </ul>
3	Risk of harm where a parent/guardian, teacher, professional support worker is the alleged perpetrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla.</li> <li>The school/partner will be notified.</li> </ul>
4	Risk of harm (as defined by CFA) of a child on an outing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff are familiar with the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Person or directly to Tusla.</li> <li>Procedure for adult/young person ratios.</li> <li>Code of behaviour for staff.</li> </ul>
5	Risk of harm due to bullying of young person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anti-bullying policy</li> <li>Group contract for and between young people and project staff</li> </ul>
6	Risk arising from a project partner disclosing something	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>
7	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use or dissemination of children /Young Person's images or information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all staff adheres to social media procedures including consent sought for the taking and use of images.</li> <li>All data on children comes under Draíocht's GDPR Privacy Policy.</li> </ul>
8	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of ICT (Information & Communications Technology) and Online activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedure for safe use of online technology.</li> <li>Group contract for and between young people and project staff.</li> </ul>
9	<p>Risk of harm may arise due to the use of and external company i.e 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>Any external service/company utilising Draíocht's facilities for productions that include children or vulnerable adults as part of the cast must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>read and adhere to Draíocht's Child Protection Policy.</li> <li>be made aware of policy practice on Adult/Young People ratios in company contract and backstage maximum numbers.</li> <li>must have appointed a Designated Liaison Person &amp; Garda vet all 'relevant persons'</li> <li>be responsible for the review and implementation of their own Child Protection Policy and supporting documents</li> </ul> <p>Any concerns relating to these services shall be raised immediately with Designated Person.</p>

## 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**
- **Complaints Policy/Procedures**
- **Recruitment Policy/Procedures including procedures for the safe recruitment and selection of workers.**
- **Disciplinary Policy/Procedures**
- **Anti-Bullying Policy**
- **Procedure for provision of, and access to, child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm**
- **Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff of a child while availing of our service**
- **Procedures in place to manage retrospective disclosures**
- **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 and procedures to support mandated persons in fulfilling their duties**
- **Procedure for appointing a 'relevant person' for the purposes of the statement.**
- **Procedures and pack for external company's use of building.**
- **Procedure for safe use of online technology and Draíocht GDPR Privacy Policy**
- **Health and Safety Policy / Procedures**

## 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 was reviewed and updated on 14th of April 2026 and will be reviewed every two years or as soon as is 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

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Email: [sarah@draiocht.ie](mailto:sarah@draiocht.ie)

#### **And The Deputy Liaison**

#### **Emer McGowan, Director**

Draíocht, Blanchardstown Town Centre, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

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All procedures listed above are available upon request.

**This current policy was updated in April 2026.**