



## Child Safeguarding Statement 2023

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

We are a community arts and education company who present and facilitate creative experiences for children and their families. Our activities include: writing, producing and performing multidisciplinary theatre for children to provoke imaginative thinking; designing and delivering creative workshops; designing and producing on-line educational tutorials and leading collaborative community arts projects with children and young people, to support their creativity and artist skills development.

Other artists, creative staff, administrative staff and performers may be employed on short-term contracts for some projects. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience where the welfare of the child and young person is paramount, and to ensure that staff or volunteers on any of our projects contribute to this environment.

As creative practitioners and educators, we value children, and always consider their welfare, enjoyment and comfort when planning any activities that interact directly or indirectly with children and/or young people. We strive to develop children's self-esteem, encourage each child to contribute to, and participate in activities, and reward their efforts as well as their achievements.

### STATEMENT OF CONTEXT FOR OUR SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND POLICY

Within the scope of the relevant TUSLA guidelines, our work falls under the definition of "relevant services" under the following heading:

Any work or activity which involves providing:

- » Educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children

As a small business partnership, we do not qualify as a 'relevant' service unless we employ other people. As we do this on an occasional and time-limited contract basis, on these occasions we do qualify as a 'relevant service' and, as a result of this and to achieve best practice, we have created this statement and our Child Safeguarding Policy to align with the TUSLA guidelines.

### Policies and Procedures

We commit to adhering to the recommendations of Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, published by the Department of Health and Children (2017) and the Child First Act (2015) in line with Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

Our policy declaration applies to all performers and fellow artists employed on short-term contracts on our projects and any volunteers and students on work placement on projects. All of the above must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this statement declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures. We commit to ensuring that our projects, performances, and residences should all be a safe, inviting, open, inclusive, professional place for everyone.

### Review

We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every year or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national

policy. We believe that the welfare of all children and young people is paramount. All children and young people have the equal right to protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Everyone should be treated with respect and dignity and everyone has a responsibility for safeguarding children.

This policy applies to all children and young people connecting with us including:

- Audiences to our shows
- Creative consultants in the development of these shows
- Participants in our workshops
- Participants on school / community group visits
- Volunteers
- Student placements

#### **Risk Assessment in accordance with the Children First Act 2015.**

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending or participating in our projects. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

Projects and performances or workshops where parents/guardians are required to be present throughout the project activity, further minimises risks, these are indicated by an asterisk.

	<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</b>
<b>1.</b>	Risk of harm not noted by personnel working on our projects	Introduce all personnel to our Child Safeguarding Policy; roles, reporting procedures and codes of behaviour. Provision of child safeguarding training provided by us at the beginning of any project.
<b>2.</b>	Risk of harm not being reported properly or in good time by personnel working on our projects.	All personnel are made aware of the role of the Relevant Person (Lydia O'Neill), and receive training in child safeguarding concerns and levels of concern for reporting.
<b>3.</b>	Risk of child or young person being harmed by any personnel working on our projects.	Safe recruitment procedures involves: Taking all reasonable steps to eliminate people who are not suitable for working with children; and insisting all personnel are Garda vetted. Provide training on our child safeguarding policy. All personnel to read and sign our code of behaviour policy for adults. All personnel made aware that they should never allow themselves to be left alone with a child.*
<b>4.</b>	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child or young person.	Our policy outlines what constitutes bullying and harassment, who to make a complaint to and what action the company will take in dealing with an offence of this nature.*
<b>5.</b>	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children or young people.	Always having two adults present during events when parents/guardians are not present.*
<b>6.</b>	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/ communications between adult personnel and a child or young person.	Adults will never be alone with a child either in the building or to give a lift to a child in a car.*
<b>7.</b>	Risk of harm caused by personnel communicating with children or young people in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	Adults will NEVER communicate on a 1-1 basis with a child or young person either by text, email or social media.*

8.	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images of children or young people.	Images of any child or young person participating in any activities will not be used for any reason without the consent of the parent/caregiver which will be attained by written signed consent.
9.	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of children or young people's personal data.	No data is disclosed to any third party and remains confidential.

## Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. We are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child Safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while engaging with our activities either as audience members, as creative consultants or as participants.

This statement will be published on our website. It will be provided to all personnel on contracting. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

Signed:

Dated: 10/06/2023



Lydia O'Neill



Martin O'Neill