

Dance Theatre of Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement

1. **Dance Theatre of Ireland CLG** provide dance classes as a creative physical leisure activity at the Centre for Dance, Dun Laoghaire, and as an educational / participatory arts outreach activity in schools and community organisations.
2. **Dance Theatre of Ireland (DTI) has a Child Protection Policy** to help safeguard children / young adults from harm;
 - All members of the teaching staff and administrative staff are Garda vetted.
 - All staff members are recruited according to standards that insure their suitability to work with children / young people.
 - All staff members are made aware of the child-centered and welcoming ethos of the dance class environment that treats each child with respect.
 - Procedures are in place to safeguard children / young people from harm in our Child Protection Policy
3. **DTI** have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while participating in a dance activity. 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	Bullying, name calling or any other behaviour that may cause offence or injury to a student in class.	All teachers sign an Agreement in which they are responsible for maintaining positive respectful behaviours in class, to be vigilant for bullying behaviour by students and to correct students in an appropriate manner who may be engaging in disrespectful or harmful behaviour.
2	Injury and Health Issues	Students & Parents are instructed to inform DTI reception and their teacher of injuries and health problems, prior to undertaking classes. An accident/injury reporting procedure is in place for any incident in class. First Aid boxes on site.
3	Teachers teaching a children's class on their own.	Parents or carers may sit adjacent to the studio during their own child's class. For youngest 3-5 ages, we endeavor to have two adults with the students and always another member of staff is onsite and nearby should further assistance be needed. In the case of outreach workshops, a member of the hosting organisation is in the room and/or easily accessible.
4	Issues with teacher or member of staff.	Upon registration and at the start of a term of classes, parents and young students are advised to communicate with their teachers, the DTI Staff or Artistic Directors should any issues of concern arise throughout the year. Reporting procedures are in place and Designated person would be notified.
5	Signing out unaccompanied from day camps	DTI does NOT allow its members under 18 to sign out unaccompanied without a parental consent form in place.

4. 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 our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service in our Child Protection policy - reviewed yearly;
- We undertake that we safely recruit and select staff, teachers, and volunteers who are to work with children - all members of the teaching staff and administrative staff are Garda vetted;
- Teachers working with children are provided information on child safeguarding (via Tusla website & the DTI Child Protection Policy) and are asked to undertake the on-line course and achieve Certificate;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla in place and in our Child Protection policy;
- A list of persons in our Company working directly with children -- are Robert Connor, Loretta Yurick, Monica Munoz, Cayisha Graham and Saoirse Doyle, Fernando Hernandez. However all teachers may at some time have a person under 18 in their class.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. 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 1st January 2022 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  for Dance Theatre of Ireland

For queries, please contact Robert Connor, Designated Liaison Person under the Children First Act 2015.

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