

Abbey Theatre Child Safeguarding Statement

The purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement is to demonstrate the Abbey Theatres commitment to the protection of children and our adherence to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017).

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1. Name of service being provided:

Theatre and workshops

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from:

We create theatre for young people both on the Abbey and Peacock stages, as well as on tours to venues around the country and internationally. This work is also presented in non-theatre settings such as schools, libraries, community centres, education centres and rehearsal rooms. We also run workshops in these spaces, some of which are in preparation for visiting the Abbey's productions or are in response to what has been seen. In addition, we run workshops and courses that related to theatre skills in general.

The Abbey Theatre is committed to the wellbeing of all young people involved in our work. We undertake to provide a safe environment and positive experience, the welfare of the young person being of paramount importance.

We will adhere to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*.

We have developed policies and procedures to ensure this commitment is enshrined in all aspects of the Abbey's work. The Abbey Board recognises it holds ultimate responsibility for the wellbeing of the young people who visit its shows and are involved in ancillary activities. This policy is relevant to all adults involved in the Abbey Theatre's work with young people. Parents and members will be informed of relevant policies and procedures.

3. Risk Assessment

Section 2 of the Children First Act 2015 defines harm as follows: 'harm means in relation to a child- (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects, or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or, (b) sexual abuse of the child.

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	Risk of harm not being recognised by Abbey Theatre personnel	Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
2	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by Abbey Theatre personnel	All appropriate personnel are provided with procedures for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla. Including information on the role and responsibilities of the Designated Liaison Person and Mandated Persons
3	Risk of young person being harmed by Abbey Theatre personnel	Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children including procedure for Garda Vetting. Policy for the Supervision/ training and support of staff Code of Behavior
4	Risk of harm due to bullying of a young person	Dignity at Work policy
5	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of young people	Code of Behaviour
6	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/ communications between youth theatre personnel and a young person	Code of Behaviour

7	Risk of harm caused by Abbey Theatre personnel communicating with young people in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, texting, digital device or other manner.	Policy on Social Media guidelines Code of Behaviour
8	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images of young people	Social Media Policy
9	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of young people's personal data.	Communications Policy Data Protection Policy

4. Procedures

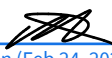
Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015 and in line *with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children and young people while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child/ young person availing of our service
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service that are mandated persons.
- Complaints Policy/Procedures (Child Protection Policy)
- Disciplinary/Appeals Procedures (Child Protection Policy)
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedures
- Guide on Informing Parents (Child Protection Policy)
- All policies are available upon request. Child Protection Policy is available on our website.

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 in **October 2023** or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change.

Signed: 
[Mark O'Brien \(Feb 24, 2023 16:41 GMT\)](#)

Mark O'Brien – Executive Director

For queries, please contact Phil Kingston who is the Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2017.

6. Control Sheet

Title:	Child Safeguarding Statement
Author (Responsible):	Human Resources
Owner (Accountable):	Human Resources Director
Department:	Human Resources
Contact:	Human Resources
Version No.	2.0
Status:	Draft
Reviewed by (Consulted):	Senior Management Team
Approved by:	The Board of the Abbey Theatre
Date of approval:	TBC
Applicable to (Informed):	The Board and staff of the Abbey Theatre
Communicated on:	TBC
Last reviewed:	October 2022
Frequency of review:	Biennial
Date of next review:	October 2023
Related policies & procedures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Policy