

Child Safeguarding Statement

Designated Officer: Anja Terpstra 056 7751266 / 087 6645662 anja@barnstorm.ie

Deputy Designated Officer: Jo Hennessy 056 7751266 jo@barnstorm.ie

Barnstorm Theatre Company CLG is committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children and young people. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where respect for, and the welfare of, the child/young person are paramount. We will adhere to the “Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)” by having and implementing procedures covering:

- Safe recruitment, training, and management/supervision of staff
- Code of behaviour for staff
- Incidents and accidents
- Complaints
- Reporting of suspected or disclosed abuse
- Confidentiality
- Access, upon request, to information on these procedures to relevant parties
- Allegations of misconduct or abuse by staff

Where we work with children through a host organisation that has the primary contact and relationship with parents/carers, our Child Protection Policy and processes may be mediated through that host organisation.

Barnstorm Theatre Company CLG work with and for children aged 4-18 yrs. It carries out a range of services in this regard:

Theatre Production | Drama Workshops | Rehearsals | Trips | School visits | One-off projects

We may on occasion take photographs and/or video for publicity or archival reasons. If any parent, carer, teacher, leader, or participant is uncomfortable with photos and/or video being taken during the workshop or at performances please contact the Designated Officer. If you have questions and require more information please contact Jo Hennessy, Participation & Education Officer at jo@barnstorm.ie

Additional Information for Parents, Carers, Teachers, and Leaders

As we are a child centred organisation, we are committed to respecting the child/young person and to putting their interests first. To that end, we will:

- Operate child centred policies in accordance with best practice
- Listen to, respect, and treat all children and young people equally and as individuals
- Lead by example, providing a positive atmosphere of trust in which to have fun and learn through age-appropriate activities
- Encourage feedback from children/young people on any aspect of the activities or workshops, including the reporting of any bullying, concerns, or worries

It is our policy:

- That all workshops conducted by Barnstorm and involving children or young people will have at least one Garda-vetted adult facilitator present.
- To have at least one facilitator, leader, teacher, or volunteer present in our workshops who will be aware of and responsible for emergency procedures in respect of fire, accident, or illness, and to comply with all relevant health & safety practices
- To require that each organisation with whom we work have Public Liability Insurance for any space in which we deliver a workshop.

If we have concerns about the welfare of the child/young person, we will:

- Respond to the needs of the child or young person
- Follow internal reporting procedures, which include informing the parents/carers of such concerns, unless doing so puts the child or young person at further risk. Any serious concerns will be reported to a social worker or to the Gardai in an emergency.
- In the event of a complaint against a member of staff, we will immediately ensure the safety of the child/young person and inform parents/carers where appropriate

Please be aware that the nature of the work that we do involves physical contact amongst participants such as might occur, for example, during a game of tag. Participants are welcome to sit out of any activity in which they may feel uncomfortable.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Risk of harm not being recognised by youth theatre personnel (leaders, staff or volunteers)	Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm Child Protection Policy
2	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by youth theatre personnel	All 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. The Relevant Person has completed the Tusla E-Learning programme Nov 2018
3	Risk of young person being harmed by youth theatre personnel, including volunteers	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 Behaviour for staff/volunteers
4	Risk of harm due to bullying of a young person	Group Contract for Members Members Rights and Responsibilities Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers
5	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/ communications between youth theatre personnel and a young person	Policy on staff recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children including procedure for Garda Vetting. Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers
6	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of young people's personal data.	Confidentiality Policy
7	Risk due to inadequate supervision of young people	Health and Safety procedures and policy
8	Trips and Residentials	Procedure for safe recruitment of workers and volunteers including procedure for Garda Vetting. Members Rights and Rules - Festivals and Theatre Trips

1. 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). 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 who are mandated persons. Our Mandated Persons are Principal Social Worker, Child & Family Agency, Yellow House, Western Road, Clonmel, 052-6177302 or the Duty Social Worker 052-6177302. Our DLP is Anja Terpstra
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.
- Complaints Policy/Procedures
- Disciplinary/Appeals Procedures
- Procedures for Trips Away/ Residential
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedures
- Policy on Informing Parents
- Policy on Partnerships/Collaborations

All procedures listed are available upon request.

2. 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 14th June 2024 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  (Provider)

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Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015

Deputy: Jo Hennessy t | 056 7751266 e | jo@barnstorm.ie