

Clonakilty International Guitar Festival Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of service being provided:

Clonakilty International Guitar Festival – Reverb Programme

Nature of service

Our Reverb programme involves two main strands: performances and workshops. Performances take place within schools during school hours and are facilitated by school staff. Workshops take place inside and outside of school times and involve group lessons in a the classroom or a public space.

The committee of Clonakilty International Guitar Festival recognises that child protection and welfare considerations must be reflected in all of the festival's policies, practices and activities. We declare:

- Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.
- 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.
- All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
- 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.
- Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
- Workers/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

The committee will adhere to the recommendations contained in the *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, published by the Department of Health and Children; *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*, published by TUSLA; and *Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People in the Arts Sector* published by the Arts Council.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr. Kevin McNally (Secretary)

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mr. Raymond Blackwell (Chairman)

Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. 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 a child being abused by performer in schools performance	We work with schools to ensure that performances take place on school property under the supervision of school staff
2	Risk of child being abused by CIGF volunteer	No volunteer will be in direct sole responsibility for children at any time. All volunteers helping with events for children will be informed of our child protection policy and procedures for reporting suspicion of harm.
3	Risk of harm not being recognised.	We will keep up to date with new legislation. Our DLP has completed Tusla's 'Introduction to Children First' eLearning course
4	Risk of inappropriate use/sharing of images of children	Photographs and/or recorded images of children are not permitted to be used or shared without the prior approval of parents/legal guardians and the children themselves
5	Risk of lack of supervision	We work within the school so that a CIGF representative and a school staff member is always present

Types of abuse

In line with Tusla's *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*, we recognise that abuse may take many forms, including: neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. We also recognise that there are a range of factors and circumstances which make children more vulnerable to abuse, including environmental factors, community factors, and circumstances particular to the child and their parents.

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*. These procedures will apply to everyone in our organisation. 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:

- Procedures to maintain a list of mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015

- A Relevant Person has been appointed
- A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed
- A procedure for reporting concerns to Tusla
- Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures are communicated to relevant stakeholders
- Confidentiality Policy is communicated to relevant persons interacting with children
- Induction Policy (which includes procedures to inform new staff about the Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying safeguarding policies and procedures)

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 Nov 03 2024, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____  _____ (Secretary)

info@clonguitarfest

For queries, please contact Kevin McNally 0879413348 (kevinceol@gmail.com), Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.