DANCE CORK FIRKIN CRANE

THE FIRKIN CRANE LTD
CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

MARCH 2026

Name of service being provided:

- Providing space for dance classes by tenant groups and Firkin Crane programme.
- Providing space for rehearsals and performances by tenant groups and Firkin Crane Programme.
- Providing space to the professional dance community for developmental residencies.

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

Firkin Crane, the home of dance in Cork, is a place where dance artists, dance audiences and dance enthusiasts can make, see and join in dance of all kinds. Firkin Crane is unique as a resource for dance in Ireland in that it has a stage dedicated to the year-round presentation of dance. In addition it has smaller performance spaces, an exhibition space and four dance studios, all housed in a distinctive heritage building. These resources are important because of what they support people to do: to experiment with, to create and to enjoy dance in its many forms.

At Firkin Crane the care and safety of all children[1] and young people taking part in activities within the building, or taking part in Firkin Crane programmes off site, is our primary concern. We are committed to creating a safe, friendly and conducive environment which inspires confidence and creativity in children and young people who participate in Firkin Crane programme activities or attend Firkin Crane through other tenant groups.

We believe it is important that all people who work with children and young people are aware of the issues of good practice and their responsibility to safeguard the welfare of children and young people. Our guidelines have been developed bearing dance as an activity in mind.

At Firkin Crane we recognise that all children and young people have the right to freedom from abuse[2].

We ensure that all our staff are carefully selected and that they accept responsibility for helping to prevent the abuse of children and young people in their care. We respond swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse, and provide parents and children with the opportunity to voice any concerns they may have.

[1] As per the Children First Guidelines, a child is defined as an unmarried person under the age of 18 years.
[2] As per the Children First Guidelines, abuse is defined as neglect, bullying, emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse.

We have assigned a Designated Liaison Person who takes responsibility for child safety and acts as the main point of contact for parents, children and young people and outside agencies. We ensure access to confidential information is restricted to the Designated Liaison Person or appropriate external authorities.

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 and young person while using our resources. 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**
1	Rental of spaces in the building to third party groups working with children	Procedure for Rental Clients to be included in rental contracts: • All clients renting space to run private classes, workshops, rehearsals or performances must be aware of and adhere to the Firkin Crane Child Safeguarding Policy and Statement • All clients are expected to adhere to best practice in their own procedures for classes, workshops, rehearsals or performances • In all rental cases the client is responsible for the health and safety / conduct and child protection of the young people involved. • All participants must remain in the spaces hired unless authorised. • Children changing their clothes, or being changed in a public area is not permitted. • Parents/Guardians must wait in the agreed area for their children.

2	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while in Firkin Crane.	All teachers in Firkin Crane must sign up to the teacher code of practice. No children allowed in the building without supervision. Buddy system in place for under 12's.
3	Risk of harm from staff member/teacher.	All teachers in Firkin Crane must sign up to the teacher code of practice. All Staff are Garda vetted. No children allowed in the building without supervision.
4	Risk of harm from other children (bullying etc.)	All teachers in Firkin Crane must sign up to the teacher code of practice. No children allowed in the building without supervision.
5	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images of young people	When organising events for children the following information and documentation is requested by Firkin Crane in relation to each child attending: • An application form which will include parental consent; • Contact details for the family/guardians, including emergency contact numbers; • Any relevant medical information; • Information relating to any special needs which the child or young person may have in terms of access, diet, language assistance, etc. • Permission to take photography / video event will also be requested at this juncture. • Use of photographs is limited to specific group use.

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the following documents:

- Children First Act 2015.
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017).
- 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 and young people while they are availing of our resources and are contained in our Child Safeguarding Policy:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our services;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.
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All procedures listed are available upon request.

Vulnerable Adults[3]

The procedures contained in our Child Safeguarding Policy extend to the provision of services to vulnerable adults.

[3] The HSE defines a Vulnerable Person as an adult who is restricted in capacity to guard himself/herself against harm or exploitation or to report such harm or exploitation, as a result of physical or intellectual impairment.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our organisation 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 services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Laurie Uprichard EAD

For queries, please contact:
Ann Rea Relevant Person / Designated Liaison Person under the Children First Act 2015.
Kathleen Fuentes Olavarría Deputy Designated Liaison Person

Ends