



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. Name of service being provided: Carlow Arts Festival CLG
2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

Carlow Arts Festival is an annual multi-disciplinary arts festival which takes place in Carlow and is the first of the summer arts festivals in Ireland.

- We choose transformative art, diverse perspectives, and inclusion for all in the act of discovery.
- We embrace the world of virtuosic artists to resonate, inspire and collaborate with our community.
- We champion accessibility while introducing our audiences to new art forms and cutting-edge work.
- We create a vibrant temporary community that opens up horizons: creating space for discovery, delight, and disruption.
- We insist that the arts are for everyone.

Our Values are Inclusion, Audacity, Fun, Passion and Preparedness.

Our Place is Carlow.

Carlow Arts Festival is committed to a child-centred approach in our work with children and young people. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of children and young people are paramount. Below are Carlow Arts Festivals principles and procedures which should be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child is safe from harm while availing of our services.

- All Carlow Arts Festival staff and volunteers attend a child protection training course and are made aware of the organisation's code of conduct, child protection procedures, and the identity and role of who has been designated to deal with issues of concern.
- All staff are required to consent to Garda clearance.
- All staff will receive an adequate level of supervision and review of their work practices.
- No child is ever left alone in the presence of an individual Carlow Arts Festival staff member, there are always at least 2 staff members in attendance.
- All child protection or welfare concerns will be reported to Tusla/Gardaí in a timely manner.

- A child in need of personal support because of illness, physical needs or any form of distress, shall be referred in the first place to his/her parent/guardian or teacher. In the absence of a guardian, the staff member who is working with or supervising that activity will provide such support. A parent/guardian or teacher should inform a member of staff if there are any specific needs required during a child's participation at a Carlow Arts Festival event.

3. 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. Below is a list of the eight areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Non-compliance with Carlow Arts Festivals Child Protection Policy	All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy. Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be reported to the relevant line manager. The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 12 months.
2	Delay in making referrals to Tusla	All staff are trained and supported to ensure they can act promptly and not delay in contacting the Mandated Person or Tusla when they deem a referral may be required.
3	Receipt of complaints of alleged child abuse where a Carlow Arts Festival team member is the alleged perpetrator.	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla. Internal disciplinary processes are in place where the issue concerns an employee.
4	Receipt of complaint of alleged child abuse where a parent, guardian or teacher is the alleged perpetrator.	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla. The school will be notified.
5	Child makes a disclosure to a member of staff	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla.
6	A suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of staff.	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla.

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.
- 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 (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed above are contained within our Child Safeguarding Policy, which is available on our website at www.carlowartsfestival.com

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 Oct 2023 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signatories of this statement:



Benjamin Perchet
Artistic Director & CEO



David Francis Moore
Programme Director & Executive Producer

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For queries in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement please contact Ferga Moran (Programme Coordinator & Executive Assistant), Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015, at the address above or: fmoran@carlowartsfestival.com