

Child Safeguarding Statement

Artlink CLG Fort Dunree, Linsfort, Inishowen

Name of service being provided:

Artlink is an artist-led visual arts organisation that provides visual arts services from its base at Fort Dunree to artists and the wider community.

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

Our programme includes workshops and exhibitions that can be attended by children and young people under 18. Our organisation believes that the best interests of children and young people attending our services are paramount. We believe that all children attending our service have the right to be

- Protected
- treated with respect
- listened to and to have their views taken into consideration in all decisions affecting them.

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 list of procedures for managing these risks.

Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1 Incident of inappropriate behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Protection and Welfare Policy which is reviewed every 2 years• Guidelines on recognising, recording and reporting child protection issues detailed in the Artlink Child Protection Policy• Child Protection training provided for all relevant workers as part of induction training• Work practices regularly evaluated and guidelines and training updated as appropriate.
2 Recruitment of an inappropriate person	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment and selection policy procedures in place for all workers and volunteers;• Garda vetting required for all workers delivering services to children;• Induction includes child protection training.
3 Unquestioning trust of long-term workers and volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long-term workers and volunteers routinely re-vetted by Garda Vetting Unit;• Child Protection provided training carried out regularly• Staff are obliged to adhere to good practice protocols as outlined in this policy
4 Inadequate supervision of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervision of children by their parents/ guardians or teachers is obligatory to participate in family and school workshops and related activities• Children never left unattended or unsupervised• Work practices continuously evaluated and guidelines and training updated as appropriate.
5 Online Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to inappropriate internet sites prohibited using filters on public access WiFi;• Internet access restricted on equipment provided for workshops and parental/guardian consent is required prior to use;• All data relating to children is protected in line with GDPR and Artlink's Child Protection Policy and Data Protection Policy

Procedures:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children](#), [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 services:


- Procedure for Responding to and Reporting Child Protection Concerns and Allegation of Abuse or Misconduct
- Procedure for 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 appointing a Designated Liaison Person

All procedures listed are available upon request

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Artlink 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 in November 2023.

Signed: (provider)



Date: 15/11/2023

Name and Contact Details Martha McCulloch 0863080313 Relevant Person under the Children's First Act 2015