

An Grianán Theatre Child Safeguarding Statement

This policy applies to all those involved in An Grianán Theatre including, but not limited to staff, visiting production and show personnel (cast, crew and others), visitors to the theatre (the general public), volunteers, parents and young people. The welfare of all children attending An Grianán Theatre events is paramount. Our aim is to ensure that all audience members enjoy their An Grianán experience, and are safe from harm at all times.

Name of service being provided:

An Grianán Theatre, Port Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, as run by An Grianán Theatre Management C.L.G.

Nature of service provided:

An Grianán Theatre is a 383 seat theatre that facilitates and promotes shows to the general public, including shows for families and also shows specifically for children. Children often perform on the stage too. We also run An Grianán Youth Theatre for young people aged from 7 to 21. We are committed to a child-centred approach in our work with children and young people and it is central to the philosophy of An Grianán Theatre that children are unconditionally respected and kept safe from harm while using our services. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child/young person is paramount. We adhere to the recommendations of Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, published by the Department of Health and Children, and Tusla, respectively.

We have developed policies and procedures to ensure this commitment is enshrined in all aspects of the theatre. Our Welfare and Child Protection Policy incorporates all policies and procedures that relate to work with young people.

Principles to safeguard children from harm:

The following principles and procedures should be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child is safe from harm while availing of our services both within our building and off-site.

All An Grianán Theatre staff and regular artists/facilitators who deliver workshops for u18s are Garda vetted.

All An Grianán Theatre staff have undertaken Tusla online Child Protection Training – Children First ELearning.

All child protection or welfare concerns will be reported to Tusla/Gardaí in a timely manner.

Children are always accompanied by a parent/guardian, teacher, workshop facilitator and/or a member of An Grianán staff while in An Grianán Theatre.

When An Grianán Theatre is open to the public there are always at least two members of staff on duty.

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 their 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 An Grianán event.

Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. 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 Non-compliance with An Grianán Theatre's 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 2 years.
2 Risk of harm not being recognised	Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
3 Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly.	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

4	Receipt of complaints of alleged child abuse where a member of An Grianán 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.
5	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 Designated Person or directly to Tusla.
6	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of young people	Policy on Adult/Young People Ratios Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers
7	Child makes a disclosure to a member of staff	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Person or directly to Tusla.
8	A suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of staff	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Person or directly to Tusla.

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). 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 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;

All procedures listed are available upon request.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing 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 1/4/2019 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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For queries, please contact Daithi Ramsay, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015, Telephone: 0749120777.