

Child Safeguarding Statement Dublin Shakespeare Society

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

While primarily for adults, Dublin Shakespeare Society successfully delivers quality creative experiences that promote artistic, personal and social development for young people under 18 years of age. We undertake to provide a safe environment and positive experience for young people. We will adhere to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017). We have developed policies and procedures to ensure this commitment is enshrined in all aspects of our work. Our Welfare and Child Protection Policy gathers all policies and procedures that relate to work with young people. This policy is targeted at all adults involved in the theatre. Parents and members will be informed of relevant policies and procedures. Youth theatre members will be informed of procedures and policies as they relate to their participation.

Risk Assessment

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 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	Procedures in place to manage identified risk
1	Risk of harm not being recognised by Dublin Shakespeare Society members	• Policy for Child Protection and Handling Suspected Abuse • Policy for Support and Training members
2	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by Dublin Shakespeare Society members	• Member Induction, particularly covering the role of Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Mandated persons • Reporting Procedures

3	Risk of young person being harmed by Dublin Shakespeare Society members	• Garda Vetting Policy • Policy for the Training and Support of DSS members • Code of Behaviour for DSS members • Policy on Adult/Young People Ratios
4	Risk of young person being harmed by another young person	• Anti-bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour for members • Group Contract for Members • Policy for Child Protection and Handling Suspected Abuse
5	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of young person	• Policy on Adult/Young People in shared spaces • Code of Behaviour for DSS members
6	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between DSS members and a young person	• Youth Communications Policy • Code of Behaviour for DSS members
7	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images of young people	• Code of Behaviour for DSS members • Policy on the use of Images/Video footage
8	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of young people' personal data	• Confidentiality Policy • Data Protection Privacy Policy • Code of Behaviour for DSS members

Procedures

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 management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against DSS members
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons; Our DLP is Noelle Timmons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.
- Complaints Policy/Procedures
- Disciplinary/Appeals Procedures
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedures
- Policy on Informing Parents
- Guidelines on Dealing with Disruptive Behaviour

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 4 February 2026, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.