

Irish Architecture Foundation

Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of service:

Irish Architecture Foundation, 15 Bachelors Walk, Dublin 1

Nature of service:

The Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF) delivers workshops and activities for young people (age 14+) through our national Architects in Schools programme held in schools, and our Open House Junior programme held in Dublin city, held in partnership with other arts organisations and cultural institutions. The Irish Architecture Foundation is committed to a child-centred approach in our work with children and young people. It is central to the philosophy of the Irish Architecture Foundation that children and young people are unconditionally respected and kept safe from harm while using our services.

Principles to safeguard children from harm:

Below are our principles and procedures which should be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child or young person is safe from harm while availing of our services both within our building and off-site:

- All IAF staff and artists/facilitators/volunteers in occasional, ongoing or regular contact with children and young people are Garda vetted. Teachers and/or parents / guardians are also present for the duration of activities where required.
- All relevant IAF staff have undertaken Tusla online Child Protection Training: Children First e-learning course, while all relevant artists/facilitators/volunteers are informed of said training.
- All child protection or welfare concerns will be reported to Tusla/Gardaí in a timely manner
- A child or young person 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 an IAF 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 risk identified

1 Non-compliance with the IAF 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 at least every 2 years.

2 Delay in making referrals to Tusla / All staff and regular volunteers 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 member of the IAF 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.

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.

Procedures:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, 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:

- a) Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service
- b) Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- c) Procedure for the provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- d) Procedure for the reporting of child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla
- e) Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons
- f) Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures are available on 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 in August 2024 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:

Blaithin Quinn,

Curator of Learning,

Irish Architecture Foundation, 15 Bachelor's Walk, D01 EA02

August 2023

Queries:

Please contact Blaithin Quinn (Relevant Person under the Child First Act 2015)

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