

National Gallery of Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

The National Gallery of Ireland (the **Gallery**) is Ireland’s major national cultural institution devoted to the collection and care of fine art. The collection currently comprises some 16,000 paintings, drawings, watercolours, miniatures, prints, sculpture and decorative arts. The Gallery employs more than 100 staff and provides free access to the public 361 days a year.

Under the Children First Act (2015) (the **Act**), the Gallery is a relevant service as it undertakes:

*“Any work or activity which consists of the provision of—
(a) educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children.”*

It is the policy of the Gallery to safeguard the welfare of children and young people by ensuring they are safe and protected from harm whilst visiting our premises.

Every year, thousands of young people enjoy the learning opportunities provided by the Gallery, visiting with family and friends or as part of an organised group. While the primary responsibility for children’s welfare rests with the supervising adult, the Gallery intends to ensure young people are protected from harm on the premises. Our Child Protection Policy (2017) is fully compliant with the Act. This Policy applies to all permanent, contract, and freelance staff, as well as volunteers.

All such persons have been provided with a copy of this Statement¹ and are obliged to be familiar with and to adhere its terms. The full Statement is also published prominently on our website and is available in the Gallery to parents or guardians, Tusla and any member of the public upon request from any member of our Visitor Experience or Education department staff.

2. 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.	Incident of inappropriate behaviour by a member of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Policy in place and reviewed biannually • Guidelines on recognising, recording and reporting child protection issues are as outlined in the Policy • Child Protection training provided for all staff, facilitators and volunteers as part of induction and at regular intervals during employment • Work practices continuously evaluated and guidelines and training updated as appropriate • Garda vetting required for all those providing child services.

¹ Including via the Corporate Governance Framework, on the Common Access drive, which is accessible by all staff.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
2	Recruitment of an inappropriate person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and selection policy procedures in place for all staff, facilitators and volunteers • Garda vetting required for all those working in contact with children • Induction training includes Child Protection
3	Unquestioning trust of long-term employees, volunteers or facilitators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term staff, facilitators and volunteers to be re-vetted by Garda Vetting Unit in line with best practice guidelines • Child Protection Training provided • Work practices continuously evaluated and guidelines and training updated as appropriate • CCTV is in place in all key areas of the Gallery
4	Inadequate supervision of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should never be left unattended or unsupervised • Adult/child ratios adhered to and increased as required for specific events as per guidelines • Active involvement of parents/guardians or teachers encouraged and obligatory for specific services • CCTV is in place in all key areas where workshops are held • 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 by the use of filters on public access WiFi • All data relating to children is protected in line with the Child Protection Policy and Data Protection Policy. • Where photos of children appear on our website/social media, permission has been sought and granted by the child's guardian, and the permission form is kept on file in the Education Department.
6	Access to the Gallery by an unaccompanied minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security posted at all entrances • Security throughout the Gallery • CCTV monitoring throughout the Gallery
7	Incident of inappropriate behaviour by a member of the public while in the Gallery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security posted at all entrances • Security throughout the Gallery • CCTV monitoring throughout the Gallery

3. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Act, *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.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

The Gallery does not currently employ any mandated persons, as defined in Schedule 2 of the Act. The Director has, pursuant to and in conjunction with the adoption of this Statement, appointed a Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person² to deal with any child protection issues and reporting that may arise. A list of individuals currently fulfilling these roles is maintained by the Gallery's Legal & Compliance Manager. Such appointments will be reviewed periodically, in conjunction with any review of this Statement.

4. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. The Gallery is committed to the implementation of this Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while visiting and interacting with the Gallery.

This Statement will be reviewed biannually in January, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which it refers.

Signed: 
Sean Rainbird
Director, National Gallery of Ireland

For queries, please contact Joanne Drum (E: jdrum@ngi.ie T: +353 (0)1 663 3505), Designated Liaison Person and/or Christiaan Clotworthy (E: cclotworthy@ngi.ie T: +353 (0)1 663 3563), Deputy Designated Liaison Person.

² Both "relevant persons", as defined in Section 8 of the Act