



Child Safeguarding Statement

Last updated 23 November 2020

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) (as amended) (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 and engaging in Gallery-run activities offsite and online.

Every year, thousands of young people enjoy the learning opportunities provided by the Gallery, including visiting with family and friends or as part of an organised group or participating in Gallery-run activities offsite or online. 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 (2020) is fully compliant with the Act and applies to all permanent, contract, and freelance staff, as well as volunteers.

All such persons have been provided with a copy of this Statement 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
2	Recruitment of an inappropriate person	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment and selection policy procedures in place for all staff, Freelance Tour Guides and volunteers• Induction training includes Child Protection
3	Unquestioning trust of long-term employees, volunteers or facilitators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 and may be reviewed in the case of investigation of al alleged incident

4	Inadequate supervision of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallery policy is that 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 and may be reviewed in the case of an incident occurring • Work practices continuously evaluated and guidelines and training updated as appropriate
5	Online engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In situations where NGI staff are interacting with children online or digitally, the principle that the online space is an extension of the physical space applies. • All activities are fully risk-assessed to ensure adherence to the child protection policy and other relevant policies including data protection policies. • When working digitally, staff should always adhere to the same code of behaviour and reporting procedures and policies as set out in this document. • 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/Privacy Notice. • Where photos of children (those aged 15 or younger) appear on our website/social media, permission has been sought and granted by the child's guardian, and the permission form is kept securely on file in the Education Department.

6	Access to the Gallery by an unaccompanied minor	<p>Gallery policy is that Children should never be left unattended or unsupervised</p> <p>Security posted at all entrances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security throughout the Gallery • CCTV monitoring throughout the Gallery and may be reviewed in the case of an incident occurring
7	Incident of inappropriate behaviour by a member of the public while in the Gallery	<p>Security posted at all entrances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security throughout the Gallery • CCTV monitoring throughout the Gallery and may be reviewed in the case of an incident occurring

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 set out below. 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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Rainbird', written in a cursive style.

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.

Approved by Education & Public Engagement Committee on 23 November 2020.