



**United
Fall**

Child Safeguarding Statement

Established in 2018, United Fall's mission is to create, produce and promote the development of the contemporary dance and dance theatre nationally and internationally by producing a high quality and innovative dance and multidisciplinary performances.

Our work sometimes engages with children and young people, through workshops and performances.

We are committed to providing a safe environment and positive experience for all children and young people with whom we interact, a place where the welfare of the young person is of paramount importance. We have developed policies and procedures to ensure this commitment is enshrined in all aspects of our work with children and young people.

This Welfare and Child Protection Policy gathers all policies and procedures that relate to work with young people and adheres to *Children First Act 2015*, and the *Children First: National Guidance*, and *Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*.

We are committed to reviewing our policies and procedures every two years.

PRINCIPALS TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

Below are the principles which will be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child is safe from harm while engaging with or performing with United Fall.

- All staff, and any artists/facilitators engaged to work with children, are Garda vetted.
- All staff have undertaken Tusla online Child Protection Training – Children First E-Learning.
- We endeavour to create and encourage a friendly, welcoming and positive atmosphere at all times.
- All child protection or welfare concerns will be reported to Tusla/Gardaí in a timely manner.
- Children are always accompanied by a parent/guardian/ chaperone, teacher or member of staff while in the venue.
- 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 his/her parent/guardian/ chaperone 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/ chaperone or teacher should inform a member of staff if there are any specific needs required during a child's participation at an 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
<p>Non-compliance with the company's Child Protection Policy</p>	<p>All staff, artists and volunteers are provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures and policies for the safeguarding of children during their engagement with United Fall.</p> <p>Any breach of the Child Safeguarding procedures will be reported to the relevant line manager.</p> <p>The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every 2 years.</p>
<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by staff and risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by staff</p>	<p>All staff and incoming organisations working with children are provided with a copy of the venue's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i></p> <p>The company's Child Protection Procedures are made available to all staff who are required to adhere to same.</p> <p>All staff have undertaken Tusla online Child Protection Training – Children First E-Learning and the company maintains records of all staff, artists and board member training.</p>
<p>Delay in making referrals to Tusla</p>	<p>All staff and are trained and supported to ensure they can act promptly and not delay in contacting the Designated Liason Person or Tusla when they deem a referral may be required.</p>
<p>Receipt of complaints of alleged child abuse where a staff member is the alleged perpetrator.</p>	<p>The company adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation in relation to directly employed persons</p> <p>All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liason Person or directly to Tusla.</p> <p>Internal disciplinary processes are in place where the issue concerns an employee.</p>
<p>Receipt of complaint of alleged child abuse where a parent, guardian or</p>	<p>All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liason Person or directly to Tusla.</p>

Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
teacher is the alleged perpetrator.	
Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children during their engagement with the company	The company has a minimum ratio of supervising adults/children outlined in its contracts with children involved in our shows to ensure appropriate supervision of children during their time with the company.
Risk of inappropriate use of video/photography/other media to record children's activities	<p>All staff working with children are informed of the following:</p> <p>Parents must be informed in advance that photography is not permitted during performances.</p> <p>Cameras, camera phones or other recording devices are not permitted in the dressing room/backstage areas of any venues that the company is using</p> <p>If the company is making an official recording of the performance, we secure the permission of parents/ guardians in advance.</p>
Child makes a disclosure to a member of staff	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liason Person or directly to Tusla.
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, *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 engaging with our company:

- 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, chaperones 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;

IMPLEMENTATION

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process at United Fall. Our company is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while engaging with us.

Designated Liaison Person:

Emma Martin
(Artistic Director)
United Fall,
Teach Aine,
Milltown, Kilbride,
Co. Carlow

info@unitedfall.com

0857407688