

**RUA**

**RED**

Ionad Ealaíne Átha Cliath Theas  
South Dublin Arts Centre

# CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

## **Name of Service being provided**

Rua Red South Dublin Arts Centre, Blessington Rd, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 KV8N

## **Nature of Service and Principles to safeguard children from harm**

We at Rua Red are committed to safeguarding the well being of children who are participating in events and activities within our venue or in off site locations. We privilege a child centred approach, where the developmental needs of the child/young person are to the fore. Our aim is to create a safe, creative and enjoyable environment where children can engage in a range of creative activities and where their protection and welfare is paramount.

## **Rua Red agrees that:**

- The protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
- Our guiding principles, policies and procedures to safeguard children reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years
- We will fully comply with our obligations under the Children First Act 2015.
- We will fully cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child safeguarding matters.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child who attends participates in our services, including the right to be kept safe, protected from harm, listened to and heard.
- Our guiding principles apply to everyone in the organisation.
- Staff and volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation.

## **Rua Red believes that the safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. We aim to ensure that through all our interactions the best interest of the child is paramount.**

Rua Red is committed to the safeguarding of children through the following processes:

Comprehensive recruitment and vetting processes for all staff and volunteers

Comprehensive training programmes which all staff are required to attend

Clearly defined and communicated Code and Standards of Behaviour

Safety management systems in place including, but not limited to, Rua Red's Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy, incident reporting and reviewing process

## **Risk Assessment**

We have carried out an assessment of any potential harm to a child while availing of our services. Taking the definition of 'harm' in relation to a child as: "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 sexual abuse of the child".

Below is a list of the possible areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>
1.	<b>Access to Children</b>	All Rua Red Staff and Volunteers are subject to a comprehensive screening process, which includes an application form, interview, reference check and Garda vetting
2.	<b>Risk of Harm</b>	<p>Per the Children First Act 2015, “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, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.</p> <p>All Rua Red Staff and volunteers are trained in child protection and are aware of their obligations in reporting a child protection complaint or concern.</p>
3.	<b>Use of Images of Children</b>	Written permission sought in advance from parents and/or schools for use of children’s images in publications and online
4.	<b>Off-Site Programmes</b>	Rua red will participate in programmes and events at external locations with and/or with partner organisations with due regard to child safety
5.	<b>Recording and Sharing Information</b>	All records pertaining to child safety complaints or concerns are held securely
6.	<b>Ratios</b>	For Primary School workshops, the ratio should not be more than 30:3. For Secondary School workshops the ratio should not be more than 30:2.
7.	<b>One-to-One Working</b>	Rua Red programmes always involve more than one adult being present or at least within sight or hearing distance of others.
8.	<b>Appropriate Physical Contact</b>	There will be instances when physical touch is unavoidable and in fact necessary, e.g. avoiding injury. Physical touch should only occur when it is appropriate to the age, development of the child and in response to the particular needs of the child.
9.	<b>Safe Use of Internet / Social Media</b>	There is no unsupervised access to wireless internet (WIFI) connection and/or computer network by children. Mobile phones are not to be used during workshops unless they are a necessary part of the lesson plan.

	<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>
10.	<b>External to the Venue</b>	Staff and Volunteers will not arrange external meetings or contact children or vulnerable adults outside the group or project or offer lifts to children or vulnerable adults.
11.	<b>Responding to Challenging Behavior</b>	Staff and Volunteers should not under any circumstances attempt to deal with any problems or challenging behavior alone. If an activity, event or interaction is becoming out of hand or becomes unsafe, the Group Leader / Keyworker / Staff members must be notified immediately.
12.	<b>Communicating with Parents / Guardians and Primary Carers</b>	Rua Red is committed to being open with all primary carers, i.e. parents and guardians. As a child-centred and person-centred organisation, Rua Red is committed to putting the interest of the child and vulnerable adult first. We encourage primary carers to work in partnership with us under the guidelines set out by our organisation to ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults.

## **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 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:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers / volunteers of a child availing of our service.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- Procedures for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to TUSLA; Procedure for maintaining list of the persons in the relevant service who are the mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

## **Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Rua Red 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 is to be reviewed in January 2020 or as soon as is practicable following a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.**

**Local TUSLA Contact:**

Tusla Area Dublin South West, Kildare and West Wicklow, duty social work office covering Dublin South West is located in Kildare.

Building 2, Vista Primary Care Centre,

Ballymore Road,

Naas,

Co Kildare.

W91 HT2X

(045) 839300

**In Case of Emergency, contact An Garda Síochána - 112/999**

Signed



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**Maolíosa Boyle, Executive Director**

Please contact Lorna Kavanagh, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015, with queries.