

Photo Museum Ireland

Child Safeguarding Statement

Last reviewed: 1 August 2024

Nature of service provided:

Photo Museum Ireland is the leading centre for contemporary photography in Ireland. Established in 1978 it is a not-for-profit arts organisation funded by The Arts Council, Dublin City Council, and by private and corporate donations. It aims to promote public appreciation and engagement with creative photography. Its primary activity is the curation and public display of exhibitions of contemporary photography in its purpose-designed building in Temple Bar. It also operates public-access darkrooms and state-of-the-art digital studios for practising artists; photography courses and masterclasses; a nationwide education and access programme; and national and international touring exhibitions. Furthermore, it is the primary resource organisation for independent photographers in Ireland. Photo Museum Ireland is committed to a child-centred approach in our work with children and young people. Photo Museum Ireland provides services to and for children. It is central to the philosophy of the organisation that children are unconditionally respected and kept safe from harm while using our services.

Principles to safeguard children from harm:

Below are Photo Museum Ireland's principles and procedures which should be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child is safe from harm while availing of our services both within our building and off-site.

- All Photo Museum Ireland staff and regular artists/facilitators/volunteers who work with children are Garda-vetted.
- All Photo Museum Ireland staff have undertaken Tusla online Child Protection Training – Children First E-Learning.
- All child protection or welfare concerns will be reported to Tusla/Gardaí in a timely manner.
- Children are always accompanied by a parent/guardian, teacher or member of Photo Museum Ireland staff while in our venue.
- When the Photo Museum Ireland is open to the public there is always a member of staff on duty in reception to record all those entering the building.
- 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 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 a Photo Museum Ireland 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
Non-compliance with Photo Museum Ireland's 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 every year.
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.
Receipt of complaints of alleged child abuse where a member of staff 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.
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. The school will be notified.
A child makes a disclosure to a member of the staff	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated 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 Mandated Person or directly to Tusla.

Procedures

Photo Museum Ireland's 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 services:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our services
- 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 or the Gardai as appropriate
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are 'Mandated Persons' as defined under the Children First Act 2015
- Procedure for appointing a Mandated Person.


All procedures listed are available upon request.

Implementation

The Photo Museum Ireland recognises 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 Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signatories of this statement:

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Tanya Kiang 

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For queries in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement please contact

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