



## **Graffiti Theatre Company Child Safeguarding Statement**

**1. Name of the service being provided: Graffiti Theatre Company**

**2. Nature of the service and principles to safeguard children from harm:**

Creative engagements with Early Years, Primary and Post-Primary children and young people in childcare centres, schools and in the Graffiti Theatre. All the activities are designed to developing the creativity and hearing the voices of young people in a space and atmosphere where young people can be assured of their personal and group safety.

Graffiti Theatre Company is committed to a young person-centred approach in all our work. We undertake to provide a safe environment and a positive experience, the welfare of the child/young person being of paramount importance.

We will adhere to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*.

We have developed policies and procedures to ensure that this commitment is enshrined in all aspects of Graffiti's work. Our Welfare and Child Protection Policy gathers together all policies and procedures that relate to work with young people. The Board recognises it holds ultimate responsibility for the wellbeing of both the staff/volunteers and of all the children and young people we encounter. The Policy is targeted at all adults, be they staff or volunteers, involved in in Graffiti programmes of work. Parents and members of Youth Theatres will be informed of relevant policies and procedures and Youth Theatre members will be informed of procedures and policies as they relate to their participation.

Graffiti works with babies (and their carers/parents) in the BEAG Programme and, for the same grouping, in full-scale productions; with Primary school children (in Creative Learning Workshops and as audience members of professional theatre productions); with two age groups in regular Youth Theatre workshops: ACTIVATE Youth Theatre 14 – 18 and ACTIVATE Junior Youth Theatre (10 – 13); with the Youth Theatres in rehearsals, trips away, theatre visits.

**3. Risk Assessment**

We have carried out and detailed 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.

| <b>Risk identified</b>  | <b>Procedure in place to manage identified risk.</b>   |
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| <b>1.</b> Risk of harm not being recognised by GTC personnel  | Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training, induction and information, including the identification of the occurrences of harm.  |
| <b>2.</b> Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by GTC Personnel  | All personnel are provided with procedures for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Túsla, including information on the role and responsibilities of the Designated Person and Mandated Persons.   |
| <b>3.</b> Risk of a young person being harmed by GTC personnel  | Procedure for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children and young people, including procedure for Garda Vetting.<br>Policy for the supervision/<br>Training and support of staff/volunteers.<br>Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers. |
| <b>4.</b> Risk of harm due to bullying of a child/ young person   | Anti-Bullying Policy<br><br>Group Contacts created with participants on all Youth Theatre Programmes   |
| <b>5.</b> Risk of harm caused to a young person due to an insufficient number of trained staff present at an event.                                       | Policy on Adult/Young Person Ratios<br><br>Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers<br>Procedure for Residentials  |
| <b>6.</b> Risk of continued harm arising from the mishandling of an allegation of misconduct or abuse by a young person against a Member of GTC Personnel | Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/ volunteers by a young person availing of GTC services.   |

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| <p><b>7.</b>Risk of harm caused by GTC personnel communicating with young people in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.</p>  | <p>Policy on communications with young people</p> <p>Code of Behaviour for Staff/volunteers</p>   |
| <p><b>8.</b>Risk of harm caused to a young person by GTC personnel through inappropriate use of video/ images taken by a staff member/ volunteer/ leader or participant while attending a GTC event or activity</p> | <p>Policy on Use of Images /footage of young people</p> <p>Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers</p> <p>Addressed when creating a Group</p> <p>Contract with participants &amp; staff</p> <p>Policy on Interagency Cooperation</p> <p>Guidelines for GTC involving young people working with other youth groups.</p> |
| <p><b>9.</b>Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of young person's personal data.</p>  | <p>Confidentiality Policy</p>   |
| <p><b>10.</b> Risk of harm to young people from third parties when sharing accommodation and other facilities.</p>  | <p>GTC takes account of the safety of young people when booking accommodation and travel.</p>   |

#### **4. Procedures.**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015 and in line with *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children and young people while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for maintaining a list of persons in the relevant service who are mandated persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person
- Complaints Policy/Procedures
- Disciplinary/Appeals Procedures
- Procedures on giving lifts to young people
- Health and Safety Policies and Procedures
- Policy for informing parents for mandated and non-mandated persons

All procedures listed are available upon request.

## 5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Graffiti Theatre 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 availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 8th March 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Joe Dermody  
Chairperson  
Graffiti Theatre Company

For queries please contact Jennifer O'Donnell, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

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