



Poetry Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement 2018

Poetry Ireland Writers in Schools in accordance with our *Child Safeguarding Guidelines* and our legislative requirements have agreed this Child Safeguarding Statement which is binding on all staff and employees*. Poetry Ireland is committed to the safeguarding of children and ensuring that all elements of our education programme take place in safe and secure environments.

Nature of Service

Poetry Ireland Writers in Schools support visits and residencies by writers and storytellers registered on the WIS Scheme to schools across the island of Ireland. Poetry Ireland also organises occasional workshops and events by writers not registered on the WIS Scheme but for whom Poetry Ireland has processed a vetting application. Poetry Ireland holds events and workshops for children and young people on an occasional basis in the organisation's premises in 11 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, where we seek to create a safe environment. Poetry Ireland also selects, recruits and trains artists to deliver their Writers in Schools programme.

Procedures in Place to Manage Risk

We have completed an assessment of the potential for harm to children when they are participating in our programmes and attending our activities under the following headings: activities, identifying risk of harm, procedures in place to address risk of harm. The following procedures were identified in this Risk Assessment to safeguard children availing of our services:

Child Safeguarding Guidelines and Vetting Policy which include:

- Code of behaviour
- Guidance for dealing with reporting allegations or concerns of abuse by staff or employees
- Recruitment procedures for new staff or WIS employees

Appointment of a Designated Liaison Person: Jane O'Hanlon janeohanlon@poetryireland.ie

Our Child Safeguarding Statement had been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements contained in the Children First Act 2015. This statement will be reviewed every 24 months.

Signed

Chairperson of Poetry Ireland Board of Management

Date

June 25, 2018

*WIS employees: artists registered with or employed by the Writers in Schools Scheme