

POETRY IRELAND CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Name of Service: Poetry Ireland Writers in Schools

Nature of Service and safeguarding principals: Poetry Ireland Writers in Schools gives children the opportunity to work closely with writers in the classroom. The creative energy sparked by these meetings with writers can trigger an appreciation of the emotional and intellectual power of language that can last a lifetime. Artists bring their creativity to the child and safely support and encourage the child in their own creative expression. We believe strongly that every child has a right to experience first-hand encounters with writers and artists.

List of Activities bringing Poetry Ireland into contact with children and young people:

- Writer in Schools single visits to schools / libraries
- Writers in Schools residencies in schools / libraries
- Workshops for children in the Poetry Ireland Centre
- WIS Mentoring Programme
- Poetry Aloud
- Recruitment of artists for WIS Programme
- Recruitment of staff for PI Education Programme
- Use of video/ photography and other media to record events. Events in partnership with libraries, arts offices, cultural centres, schools, etc.

The best interest of the child is the priority of all our services. We believe that all children have the right to be protected, treated with respect, listened to, and are respected as individuals and encouraged to reach their potential, regardless of their background. Our guiding principles are underpinned by *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, *Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and current legislation such as the Children First Act 2015, Child Care Act 1991, Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 and the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012.

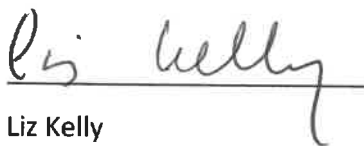
We believe that the experience for the child should be of the highest quality, enjoyable and fun, while taking place in a safe space, and delivered by artists with the necessary skills, and who are well-informed and understand of our child safeguarding procedures, and are organised by staff who are trained and adhere to safe recruitment procedures.

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 availing of our service:

- 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 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
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures listed are detailed in our Child Safeguarding Policy, which is publicly available on our website, or can be sent by email on request.



Liz Kelly

Director Poetry Ireland

Relevant Person

Date:

4.3.2024



Ciaran Benson

Chair Poetry Ireland

Date:

4. March 2024