

Alternative Entertainments Child Safeguarding Statement

Alternative Entertainments is a community arts group. We run arts events in South Dublin County, with a focus on music-based projects for children and young people.

Alternative Entertainments is committed to the protection and welfare of children, and we recognise our obligation to create a culture of safety that promotes the welfare of children and young people who avail of our services.

Alternative Entertainments' policies and procedures support best practice in child protection and welfare. We recognise that the safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility, and the best interests of the child are paramount.

Risk Assessment:

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services, including the area of online safety. Below is a list of the eight areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
People – Alternative Entertainments' staff & volunteers	All staff members/employees/volunteers: • Are recruited through safe recruitment and selection procedures including Garda Vetting (repeated in line with policy). • Undergo mandatory child safeguarding training, and always have access to information, and management support. • Are required to comply with Alternative Entertainments' Child Safeguarding Policy, Code of Behaviour and HR policy and procedures. • Are subject to supervision and review.
People – Contractors who provide services to children, and General Contractors.	All Contractors who provide services to Children: • Are recruited through safe recruitment and selection procedures including Garda Vetting (repeated in line with policy). • Undergo mandatory child safeguarding training, and always have access to information, and management support. • Are required to comply with Alternative Entertainments' Child Safeguarding Policy, Code of Behaviour and HR policy and procedures. • Are subject to supervision and review. General contractors: • Attend by agreed and scheduled appointment only. • Are always supervised by a member of Alternative Entertainments' staff. • Adhere to signing in/out procedure.
People – (Others) parents, guardians, carers, colleagues from other settings/services, visitors, and general public.	• Alternative Entertainments' staff supervise attendees at all activities and events. • All visitors adhere to The Alternative Entertainments' signing in/out procedure. • All children attending Alternative Entertainments' events have an identified parent/guardian or other grown-up. • Parents/Guardians and other bookers are given all the information that they need to fulfil their role in Alternative Entertainments' safeguarding policy including expected supervision roles and to understand the activities being delivered. • All activities and events are risk assessed. • Communication and agreement always in place between Alternative Entertainments and any offsite venue regarding child protection and welfare management.
Online activity & service delivery	• Procedures and guidelines in place for Safe delivery of online services. • Online Services delivered by staff who are subject to the policies and procedure outlined against risk 1 above.
Supervision of children and young people who avail of services.	• Risk assessment of all activities and events to establish any additional supervision or specific mitigations that may be required alongside those identified in Alternative Entertainments' Child Safeguarding Policy. • Provision of appropriate level of supervision by Alternative Entertainments staff as informed by the risk assessment of that activity.

Delivery of Activity Offsite	• All offsite activities and events are risk assessed in line with The Ark's Child Safeguarding Policy and risk management processes. • Communication and agreement always in place between The Ark and any offsite venue regarding child protection and welfare management. • Levels of supervision by The Ark staff alongside venue staff.
Inappropriate Programme/Activity Content	All Contractors who provide services to Children: • Are recruited through safe recruitment and selection procedures including Garda Vetting (repeated in line with policy). • Undergo mandatory child safeguarding training, and always have access to information, and management support. • Are required to comply with The Ark's Child Safeguarding Policy, Code of Behaviour and HR policy and procedures. • Are subject to supervision and review. General contractors: • Attend by agreed and scheduled appointment only. • Are always supervised by a member of The Ark's staff. • Adhere to signing in/out procedure.

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 above are contained within our Child Safeguarding Policy.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going 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 Child Safeguarding Statement is due for review in January 2026 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signatories of this statement: Liam Morrissey & Martin Moran

Name and contact details:

Alternative Entertainments, Rua Red Arts Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. Tel: 01 452 0611

For queries in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement please contact Martin Moran, Designated Liaison Person, 0879572468.