

# **Clonmel Arts Festival**

## **Child Safeguarding Statement**



## Child Safeguarding Statement

Clonmel Arts Festival is committed to the enjoyment of artistic activities by young people. It values and encourages participation in our activities by people of 18 years of age and younger. Our overall policy is to respect the dignity and rights of all young people up to the age of 18 who participate in any of our events, either during the festival programme or during associated events throughout the year.

Our goal in this respect is to create a culture of safety that promotes the welfare of children and young people who are engaging in our activities. That means that we will take all possible measures to keep children safe from harm while they are within our sphere of responsibility.

We have conducted a risk assessment for any potential harm to a child while engaged in Clonmel Arts Festival activities and we have created procedures to be operated to manage such risks. For the purposes of taking action under the terms of our statement, our "Welfare Officer" will equate to the "Mandated Person" as described under the provisions of the Children First Act 2015.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015. To meet our obligations under the Act we have put the following procedures in place to:

- Manage any risk as identified
- Investigate an allegation against any staff member or agent of Clonmel Arts Festival about any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child engaging in our activities
- Select and recruit staff and volunteers who are suitable to work with children
- Provide information and training to staff and volunteers on child protection and safeguarding issues
- Enable the Welfare Officer (Mandated Person) to make a report to Tusla in accordance with the Act or any guidelines issued by the Minister for Children and Youth affairs
- Maintain a list of persons who are mandated persons under the Act
- Appoint a relevant person in Clonmel Arts Festival for the purposes of the Act (Welfare Officer)

Clonmel Arts Festival will ensure that it will always have adequate measures in place to protect children from harm. We are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement through our policies, our procedures and our management. Our Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or whenever there is any material change in legislation or in any matter to which the statement refers.

This statement will be circulated to all parties involved with the activities of Clonmel Arts Festival. It will also be displayed at our offices and will be included in our Operations Handbook. It will be made available to parents, guardians and Tusla upon request.

We have appointed a Welfare Officer (Mandated Person) for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating all our activities in this area. That person will be available to any party who has any concerns in this regard.

Welfare Officer, Bess Hughes is the Designated Liaison person.

Board member, Cecily Purcell is the Deputy Designated Liaison person.

David Kirwan  
(Chairperson)

Date: 21/02/2019