

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Nature of Service and Commitment to Safeguard Children from Harm

Dance Limerick can be defined as stated by Children First Act 2015, as a service which provides educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social and physical activities for children. Dance Limerick is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee governed by a Board of Trustees. It recognises it holds ultimate responsibility for the wellbeing of participants and staff (including volunteers). Dance Limerick provides a range of activities involving children and young people aged 2-25+ which include classes, workshops and performance projects. Dance Limerick/DL.BRIDGE also provides dance projects for children and young people with a disability and vulnerable adults in projects partnering with Limerick organisations.

In line with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), Dance Limerick is committed to safeguarding the children involved in our activities and to providing a child-centred approach in all our work with young people. We are committed to upholding the rights of every young person who attends our services, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.

Risk Assessment

Section 2, of the Children First Act 2015 defines harm as follows: *Harm means in relation to a child – (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child’s health, development or welfare, or, (b) sexual abuse of the child.* We have carried out an assessment of potential for harm to a child while availing of our services:

Risk Identified	Procedures in Place to manage identified risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young person being harmed by company personnel and/or by peer(s) and/or as a result of environmental elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy & procedures for safe recruitment, training and Garda Vetting per Child & Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy Policy & procedures per Guidance & Disciplinary Policy, Feedback & Complaints Policy and Health & Safety Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm caused by inappropriate relationship/communications between Company personnel and a young person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm not being recognised by company personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of Child & Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy; Health & Safety Policy Access to child safeguarding training/information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm due to lack of inappropriate or delayed reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All personnel provided with procedures per Child & Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy for the reporting of any child protection concerns to Dance Limerick Child Protection Officer Updated Incident reporting documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm due to inadequate supervision of young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy on adult/youth ratios Code of Behaviour/Good Practice per Child & Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy Updated safe guarding training/information Wrap around yearly community classes staff training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm due to inappropriate use of young people’s images/data online, technologically or in print 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy on confidentiality and use of images within the public domain. Policy on media within teachers contracts Media consent forms to be filled out for all projects/classes.

Procedures

This statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015 and 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 when participating in Dance Limerick activities: Child & Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy; Health & Safety Policy and Procedures; Grievance & Disciplinary Policy; Feedback and Complaints Policy.

Implementation

Dance Limerick recognises that implementation is an ongoing process and is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support its intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities. This Statement was reviewed in March 2026 and will be reviewed again in January 2027.
Mary Wycherley Director, Dance Limerick

For queries please contact Katy Hewison, Child Protection Officer, katy@dancelimerick.ie 061 400994