

The Ballinglen Arts Foundation & Museum's Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of service:

The Ballinglen Arts Foundation and The Ballinglen Museum of Art, Main Street, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo

Nature of service provided:

Established in 1992, The Ballinglen Arts Foundation, a registered charity provides a residency award to artists from Ireland and abroad which enables artists to spend time working in rural Ireland so as to benefit both the artist and the community. We promote understanding and recognition of the arts with exhibitions and public events at The Ballinglen Museum of Art. The work donated by each artist Fellow makes up The Ballinglen Museum of Art Permanent Collection. We enrich arts awareness through creative education programmes led by working artists for schools and young people and Workshops for adults throughout the year.

The Ballinglen Arts Foundation schools programme has been running since 1995. Its main aim is to introduce local children to working artists, the work they make and to new skills which helps increase their knowledge and experience of the practice of art making which creates a sense of familiarity with a working and exhibiting environment. Our Youth Arts programme in collaboration with Foróige invites young people to engage with the arts through our visiting artists and the Permanent Collection. Through our Exhibition programme we invite schools, pupils, parents and the wider community to witness the compelling work for the outreach programmes. We are committed to a child-centred approach in our work with children and young people. We provide our services to and for children. It is central to our philosophy that children are unconditionally respected and kept safe from harm while using our services.

Principles and Procedures to safeguard children from harm:

Below are The Ballinglen Arts Foundation and Museum's principles and procedures which should be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child is safe from harm while availing of our services both within our building and off-site.

- All Ballinglen staff and regular artists/facilitators/volunteers working directly with children and vulnerable people are Garda vetted.

- All The Ballinglen Arts Foundation staff working directly with children and vulnerable people have undertaken Tusla online Child Protection Training – Children First E-Learning.
- All child protection or welfare concerns will be reported to Tusla/Gardaí in a timely manner.
- Children are always accompanied by a parent/guardian, teacher or specific member of The Ballinglen Arts Foundation and Museum staff while in the Ballinglen venue.
- When The Ballinglen Arts Foundation and The Ballinglen Museum of Art is open to the public there is always a member of staff/volunteer on duty in reception to record all those entering the building.
- A child in need of personal support because of illness, physical needs or any form of distress, shall be referred in the first place to his/her parent/guardian or teacher. In the absence of a guardian, the staff member who is working with or supervising that activity will provide such support. A parent/guardian or teacher should inform a member of staff if there are any specific needs required during a child's participation at an event at The Ballinglen Arts Foundation and/or at The Ballinglen Museum of Art.

Risk Assessment:

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

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1	Non-compliance with The Ballinglen Arts Foundation and Museum's Child Protection Policy	All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy. Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be reported to the relevant line manager. The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years.
2	Delay in making referrals to Tusla	All staff and regular volunteers are trained and supported to ensure they can act promptly and not delay in contacting the Mandated Person or Tusla when they deem a referral may be required.
4	Receipt of complaint of alleged child abuse where a parent, guardian or teacher is the alleged perpetrator.	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla. Internal disciplinary processes are in place where the issue concerns an employee
5	Child makes a disclosure to a member of staff	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla.
6	A suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of staff.	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla.
7	Members of the public interacting with children on premises.	We check all spaces and designate specific facilities for Children during non public events. CCTV monitoring in place in public areas. CCTV in use signage erected on-site. Child safeguarding controls shall be included in event management plans submitted by event organisers.
8	Use of camera / mobile phone camera	Photographs and/or recorded images of children cannot be used or shared without the prior approval of parents/legal guardians and the children themselves.

Procedures

The Ballinglen Arts Foundation and Museum's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the *Children First Act 2015*, and the *Children First: National Guidance*, 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 services:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our services
- 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 or the Gardaí as appropriate
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are 'Mandated Persons' as defined under the Children First Act 2015

All procedures listed are available upon request.

Implementation

The Ballinglen Arts Foundation and Museum recognises that implementation is an ongoing process. Our organisation 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 Statement will be reviewed on 27 February 2021 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Name and contact details:

The Ballinglen Arts Foundation and Museum, Main Street, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo. Tel: 096 43184

For queries in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement please contact Úna Forde, Managing Director and Designated Liaison Person, at the address above or email ballinglenarts@gmail.com

Signatories of this statement:

Úna Forde - Managing Director

Margo Dolan - Director