



Child Safeguarding Statement

Irish Ballet Teachers Association

Date Adopted: 6th August 2026

Review Date: 30th June 2028

Approved by: Sinéad Murphy, IBTA Committee Chair

1. Commitment to Safeguarding

IBTA, is committed to providing a safe, positive, inclusive and welcoming environment for all children and young people participating in our events and activities. We recognise the right of every child to be protected from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation and are committed to promoting their welfare at all times.

Our organisation delivers dance masterclasses, workshops, and related activities involving children, young people and adults throughout Ireland. We acknowledge our responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children.

The safety and wellbeing of children is everyone's responsibility.

2. Nature of Our Services

Our organisation provides:

- Workshops and masterclasses involving children (under 18 years), young adults and adults
- Training and educational events involving children (under 18 years), young adults and adults

Children attend our events as:

- Participants in masterclasses and workshops
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3. Principles

We are committed to:

- Treating all children with dignity, fairness and respect.
 - Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion.
 - Listening to children and taking their concerns seriously.
 - Providing safe recruitment and selection procedures.
 - Responding promptly and appropriately to child protection concerns.
 - Maintaining appropriate standards of behaviour for facilitators and volunteers.
 - Working in partnership with parents, guardians, teachers and relevant authorities.
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4. Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, we have carried out an assessment of potential risks of harm to children while participating in our activities.

Identified risks include:

- Unsupervised access to children.
 - Inappropriate behaviour by facilitators, volunteers or participants.
 - Bullying or cyberbullying.
 - Inappropriate physical contact.
 - Photography or video recording without appropriate consent.
 - Children becoming separated from their supervising adult.
 - Use of changing rooms and toilet facilities.
 - One-to-one interactions.
 - Communication through social media or electronic messaging.
 - Inadequate response to allegations or disclosures.
 - Online workshops or digital engagement.
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5. Procedures to Manage Risks

To minimise these risks we will:

- Require all relevant personnel to comply with our Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct.
 - Ensure appropriate Garda Vetting is completed where required by law.
 - Appoint a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy DLP.
 - Ensure concerns are reported in accordance with Children First guidance.
 - Maintain clear supervision arrangements throughout events.
 - Require children to remain under the supervision of their parent, guardian or nominated dance teacher unless otherwise agreed.
 - Implement appropriate registration and sign-in procedures.
 - Maintain clear procedures for lost or missing children.
 - Apply appropriate photography and filming procedures.
 - Prohibit private communication between adults and children through personal social media accounts.
 - Ensure changing room arrangements promote privacy and safety.
 - Provide safeguarding information to facilitators, lecturers, volunteers and participants.
 - Record and securely retain safeguarding concerns and actions taken.
 - Conduct regular reviews of safeguarding practices.
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6. Procedures

Our organisation has adopted the following procedures:

- Child Safeguarding Policy
 - Code of Conduct for Staff and Volunteers
 - Code of Behaviour for Participants
 - Recruitment and Garda Vetting Procedures
 - Reporting Procedures for Child Protection Concerns
 - Managing Allegations Against Committee Members, contractors, lecturers or Volunteers
 - Anti-Bullying Procedures
 - Photography and Video Recording Policy
 - Online Safety Guidance
 - Complaints Procedure
 - Confidentiality and Record Keeping Procedures
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7. Roles and Responsibilities

All committee members, volunteers and contractors are expected to:

- Put children's welfare first.
- Follow this safeguarding statement and all associated policies.
- Report concerns immediately to the Designated Liaison Person.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
- Participate in safeguarding training where required.

Parents, guardians and dance teachers are expected to:

- Supervise children where responsibility remains with them.
 - Inform organisers of any relevant medical or additional support needs.
 - Support safeguarding measures implemented by the organisation.
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8. Reporting Child Protection Concerns

Any concern regarding the safety or welfare of a child should be reported immediately to the Designated Liaison Person.

Where there is reasonable concern that a child may have been abused or neglected, the Designated Liaison Person will follow Children First guidance and, where appropriate, make a report to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.

Where a child is believed to be at immediate risk of serious harm, An Garda Síochána will be contacted without delay.

9. Designated Liaison Person

Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Name: _____

Position: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Deputy Designated Liaison Person:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

10. Training

We are committed to ensuring that committee members, lecturers, facilitators and volunteers receive appropriate safeguarding information and training, including:

- Familiarisation with this Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - Awareness of Children First guidance.
 - Recognising signs of abuse and neglect.
 - Reporting procedures.
 - Appropriate behaviour around children.
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11. Review

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed:

- At least every two years;
 - Following any significant change in legislation or organisational activities;
 - Following any safeguarding incident where improvements are identified.
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12. Implementation

This statement has been developed following a risk assessment under the Children First Act 2015.

It is available to:

- Committee members, contractors and volunteers
- Parents and guardians
- Dance schools and teachers
- Participants
- Tusla upon request

The organisation is committed to continually reviewing and improving safeguarding practices to ensure the highest standards of child welfare and protection.

Signed

Chairperson

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Designated Liaison Person:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____