FRESHFILM

encouraging young people to make films and empowering them as artists

Child Safeguarding Statement

Fresh Film CLG is a national organisation for children and young people who are interested in film as makers and viewers.

Exhibit Share Develop
Fresh Film Festival works for and with children and young people up to the age of 18. Its primary role is to encourage children and young people to make and appreciate film.

Policy: To encourage and empower children and young people as artists
To increase the number of young people taking part in filmmaking activities
To promote Irish young filmmakers on an international stage
To screen and distribute films made by young filmmakers from Ireland
To encourage mentoring and peer-to-peer learning for young filmmakers
To encourage the appreciation of film

Fresh offers

- **Cultural Services, including screenings, workshops, master classes, distribution.**
  - Fresh hosts public screenings, workshops, master classes, events and film productions.
  - It advocates for young filmmakers and the youth film sector.
  - It enriches schools programmes, offers public engagement and networking nationally and internationally.
  - It supports career progression within film and media

Commitment to safeguarding

Fresh Film as cultural organisation working with young people acknowledges that it has a responsibility for keeping children and young people safe from harm who are involved in arts projects, attending workshops or otherwise under its temporary care. It also recognises that good welfare and child protection policies and procedures are of benefit to everyone involved with the organisation's work, including staff.

Policy and principal:

- Fresh Film is committed to a young-person centred approach in our work.
- Fresh Film is open to all young people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, socio- economic status, national origin, sexual orientation, ability or Faith
- We undertake to provide a safe environment and positive experience; the welfare of the young person is paramount.
- Fresh Film will comply with national policy and is guided by the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tulsa's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. Fresh Film has developed policies and procedures to ensure that this commitment is imbued in all aspects of the organisation. The Board of Directors recognise Fresh Film's responsibility in relation to the welfare of staff and participants.

- Participants and Fresh Film Personnel will be informed of procedures and policies as is relevant to the programme that they are engaged in. This Statement will be on the office wall and on our website. The accompanying policy document is also available to download from our website on www.freshfilmfestival.com
- The Fresh Film is committed to reviewing its Child Protection Policy and code of practice annually. This statement and the policy was updated in **Novembeer/December 2020**

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 identified risk
1	Risk of harm to a child from a member of staff	1. Pre –employment checks 2. Recruitment procedures 3. Code of behaviour for leaders, staff and volunteers 4. Child welfare and protection policy 5. Activity specific guidelines and procedures 6. Training and induction procedures
2	Risk of harm to a child from a service user – audience, event participant (adult or child)	1. Supervision and accompaniment at Fresh activities and events by Fresh personnel. 2. Staff supervision and induction training 3. Reporting procedures 4. Consent procedures for participation
3	Risk of non- compliance with Children First Act and National Guidance	1. Compliance assurance process through Arts Council 2. Compliance monitoring and audits 3. Review of policy and practice at regular intervals
4	Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported	1. Staff information supervision and training 2. Reporting procedure 3. Risk assessment of off site / on location activities. 4. Legal and administrative consequences for non reporting 5. Post event review for participants and personnel
5	Travelling with young people at international events and festivals	1. Participant travel agreement and welfare form. 2. Participant travel code of conduct 3. Chaperone is vetted to travel and support 4. Chaperone travel code of conduct and agreement
6	Online Engagement with children and young people	1. Data managed in line with GDPR code 2. Parent/guardian/teacher/ leader image consent secured for images posted online 3. Communication with children and young people and use of images section part of the welfare policy. 4. Presence and oversight of vetted person in online activities such as Zoom calls, Slack exchanges

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 Tulsa'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 Tulsa;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in Fresh Film Festival who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for recruitment and selection.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

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 will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____ (Fresh Film Festival, Director and DLP)

[Jayne Foley, Fresh Film Festival 061 319555]

For queries, please contact Laura Wiklinson Company Manager Fresh Film, Limerick 061 319555, info@freshfilm.ie

Fresh Film Festival's Mandated and Designated Person (DLP) is the Artistic Director, **Jayne Foley,** she can be reached at the Fresh Film Festival number +353 (0)61 319555 and Fresh Mobile 083 0412122 or at artisticdirector@freshfilm.ie

Reviewed at board meeting 10th September 2026

Signed: _____(Lena Byrne, Chairperson Fresh Film)