



## Child Safeguarding Statement

All children and young people, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, sexual orientation, racial origin and religious beliefs have the right to protection from abuse in all its forms. The Model is committed to the protection of all children and young people who participate in any of our programmes or events which take place at The Model or at off-site venues. Any sense or allegation of abuse will be taken seriously and investigated swiftly and appropriately, and all staff (including volunteers) are fully briefed on the appropriate actions in such instances. If a complaint or unlawful incident occurs between an artist or arts facilitator and a third party, as a result of The Model's direct or indirect involvement, The Model will treat the situation with the utmost urgency and confidentiality. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of children and young people is paramount. We commit to undertaking a quality assurance framework self-audit in conjunction with the Arts Council every two years, and to reviewing our policies annually.

This policy applies to all those involved in The Model including, but not limited to; staff, interns, volunteers, educators and tour guides, performers and artists working with children and young people, visitors to The Model (the general public), parents, carers and guardians. Our aim is to ensure that all audience members enjoy The Model experience, and are safe from harm at all times.

### **Name:**

The Model, Home of The Niland Collection, The Mall, Sligo  
Phone: 071 9141405

### **Description:**

The Model is a contemporary arts centre that hosts a diverse programme of exhibitions, film, music/events, education and a public engagement programme. It is a community facing museum that hosts a significant collection of twentieth century Irish Art. For children and young people, The Model presents and hosts a wide range of activities such as workshops, film programmes, interactive children's public art spaces and Family Days. We are committed to a child-centred approach in our work with children and young people and it is central to the philosophy of The Model that children are unconditionally respected and kept safe from harm while using our services. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child or young person is paramount. We adhere to the recommendations of *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*, published by the Department of Health and Children, and Tusla, respectively.



## **Principles to safeguard children from harm:**

The following principles and procedures should be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child or young person is safe from harm while availing of our services both within our building and off-site.

- All The Model staff and regular artists/facilitators who deliver workshops for u18s are Garda vetted.
- All The Model staff 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, workshop facilitator and/or a member of The Model staff while in The Model or at any of our programmes delivered off-site.
- When The Model is open to the public there is always a member of staff on duty.
- 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 Model.

# The Model



## 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	Non-compliance with The Model's Child Protection Policy	All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy. Any breach of the 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 Designated Person or Tusla when they deem a referral may be required.
3	Receipt of complaints of alleged child abuse where one of The Model's team members is the alleged perpetrator.	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Person or directly to Tusla. Internal disciplinary process are in place where the issue concerns an employee.
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 Person or directly to Tusla. The school will be notified.
5	Child makes a disclosure to a member of staff.	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated 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 Person or directly to Tusla.



## Procedures

The Model's 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 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 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;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a mandated person.

## 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 Statement will be reviewed annually.

## Signed:

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**Marie-Louise Blaney**  
**Education Curator**

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**Emer McGarry**  
**Director**

**For Queries, contact :** [marielouiseblaney@themodel.ie](mailto:marielouiseblaney@themodel.ie)  
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