



SPILT MILK FESTIVAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. Name of service being provided:

Spilt Milk Festival

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm (brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children):

OUR SERVICE

Spilt Milk Festival is an annual festival of music, film and art which takes place in November in Sligo town. Founded in 2019, it provides a platform for experimental practices across music, sound art, video and film.

WHAT WE DO

Spilt Milk Festival is a meeting ground for artists and audiences alike, our events encompass performances, installations, screenings and workshops providing intimate encounters for all ages in music and art.

We support local, national and international artists, with programming focused on contemporary practices and a diversity of voices, creating an inclusive and youth-focused cultural event in the North-west region, providing access to high quality live experiences at an affordable price to audiences.

FESTIVAL AIMS

- To engage and expand the audience for experimental music, film, art and performance in Sligo town and county.
- To increase Sligo's output in the fields of alternative and experimental music.
- To enhance Sligo's reputation as a home for and destination for innovative music, art and performance.
- To promote diversity, equality and inclusion in live music performance.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED TO YOUNG PEOPLE

- Main programme performances open to young people aged 16 years+.

- Performances aimed specifically to children and young people and their families (u18s will only be admitted in the company of a parent/care giver).
- One-off group workshops aimed at children and young people (u18s will only be admitted in the company of a parent/care giver).
- Public exhibitions/installations that are open to the general public including children and families – in partnership with host venues or held outdoors.

OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

- All staff (paid & voluntary) are Garda vetted.
- All artists engaged in workshop activities aimed at children, young people and vulnerable people are Garda vetted
- All staff and contracted artists have been made aware of and encouraged to undertake Tusla online Child Protection Training.
- All staff and contracted artists have a copy of Spilt Milk Festival’s Child Protection Policy and have signed a declaration that they are familiar with the procedures contained within it.
- All child protection or welfare concerns will be reported to Tusla/Gardaí in a timely manner.
- All children and young people engaging with Spilt Milk Festival’s activities will have parental consent to do so.

3. Risk Assessment

Note: the definition of harm in relation to a child is: ‘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 sexual abuse of the child’. 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	Lack of awareness of child protection duty and non-compliance with Child Protection Policy (e.g. delays in making necessary referrals).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff, contracted artists, volunteers and partners are provided with the Child Protection Policy. ● Staff are provided with training every 2 years, to ensure they are equipped to deal with disclosures and to make referrals if required. ● Staff and artists are encouraged to

		<p>complete the TUSLA e-learning programme. Completion of the programme will be a requirement within future contracts for artists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be reported to the Festival Director. ● A list of staff (if any) who are Mandated Persons (as defined by the Children First Act 2017) will be maintained. ● A Relevant Person will be appointed to be the first point of contact regarding this Child Safeguarding Statement. ● The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every year.
2	<p>Images of a child being disseminated on social media without parental/guardian/caregiver consent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spilt Milk staff, contracted artists, volunteers and partner staff are aware that children cannot be photographed without parental/guardian/caregiver permission ● Permission is sought from the child/young person ● Images used for social media must either avoid showing the child's face or the parent/guardian/caregiver must sign a consent form. ● Only use images of children and young people in suitable dress to reduce the risk of inappropriate use. ● Avoid using children's names (first name or surname) in photograph captions. ● Consent forms to be included as part of Spilt Milk Festival events kit in case they are needed.

3	Receipt of complaints of alleged child abuse where a Spilt Milk Festival staff/contractee is the alleged perpetrator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff and contractors are Garda vetted before they begin work. ● There will always be two adults present during activities delivered by Spilt Milk Festival ● All children engaging with Spilt Milk Festival activities will have parental consent to do so. ● 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.
4	Receipt of complaint of alleged child abuse where a parent/guardian, contracted artist/technical staff or partner staff member is the alleged perpetrator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There will always be two adults present during activities delivered by Spilt Milk Festival ● All children engaging with Spilt Milk Festival activities will have parental consent to do so. ● All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla. ● The school/venue/partner will be notified.
5	Child makes a disclosure to a member of staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All Spilt Milk Festival staff and contracted artists 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All staff and contracted artists know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla.

4. 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 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, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- 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 relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. 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 on **10th January 2025**, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  (Provider)

Edel Doherty

For queries, please contact Edel Doherty, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

Edel Doherty, Co-Festival Director, Designated Liaison Person.
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