

Irish National Youth Ballet Child Safeguarding Statement

1. The Irish National Youth Ballet (INyb) aims to provide young dancers with an enriching experience during their formative years and to give them a flavour of what it might be like to pursue a career in dance.

2. INyb has a Child Protection Policy to help safeguard children / young adults from harm;

- All members of the teaching staff are Garda vetted.
- The committee members, crew and any member above the age of 18yrs are Garda vetted.
- Only members Garda vetted can help the dancers back stage or be near the dressing room area.
- All dancers must wear the INyb tracksuit, so they can be easily identified while working outside of the studio.
- All dancers must sign in and out of the studio and the theatres to ensure a record is kept of where dancers are.

3. INyb have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while being a member of the company. 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	Bullying, name calling or any other behaviour that may cause offence to a fellow dancer.	All dancers must sign a Code of Conduct stating they agree with the CPP policies in place as to how dancers should behave. This is part of the contract agreement.
2	Past or on-going health issues / injury issues.	A doctor / physiotherapist letter is requested from all dancers before working with the company, this is to assist the teaching staff and the Director of any possible concerns.
3	Young dancers working in theatres.	The teaching staff point out all the areas back stage that the dancers need to watch out for. The crew look after the stage area / wing space to ensure there is no trip factor.
4	Teachers teaching class alone.	A committee / parent volunteer sits outside the studio while the teacher is alone with the dancers. If a child feels unwell / feels uncomfortable they can / will be looked after, this ensures the other dancers are not left unattended and the child who needs assistance has an adult with them.

5	A problem a dancer may have with a member of the teaching staff / crew.	<p>An AGM is held at the beginning of every working year/ contract with INYB. Parents and dancers are all invited to meet the teaching staff and the committee. Parents are advised the Director, Katherine Lewis is always available for the dancers to approach with their concerns or the Chairperson of the committee, Deirdre Phelan.</p> <p>All the above issues are dealt with in the INYB Child Protection Policy available on the website.</p>
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4. The INYB 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 a member of the company:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child in INYB;
- 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 in INYB who are the mandated are; Director, Katherine Lewis, Committee chairperson, Deirdre Phelan.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. Implementation

INYB recognise that implementation is an on-going process. We are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while a member of the company.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 10/09/2019, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____ Irish National Youth Ballet

For queries, please contact Katherine Lewis, Director.

