



# CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

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## 1. NAME OF SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED

Young Irish Film Makers (YIFM) is a national youth arts organisation working with young people aged 9 to 25 years. YIFM provide film, animation and digital media training and production programmes for over 1400 young people annually across Ireland in schools, youth and community centres, after school workshops and also through residential programmes such as the National Youth Film School.

## 2. COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

- Our Service is committed to safeguarding the children and young people we work with and to providing a safe environment in which they can be creative, learn and develop.
- Our service believes that the welfare of the children attending our service is paramount. We are committed to child-centred practice in all our work with children.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, and heard.
- Our policy and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Tusla Children First - Child Safeguarding Guide 2017, and the Children First Act 2015.
- Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/ board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All committee board members, staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.
- We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.
- **Designated Liaison Person** for Child Protection

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### 3. RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, YIFM have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the service or participating in service activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

Risk Identified	Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage Risk
Afterschools Workshops	Use of the correct ratio of staff to children ensuring safety of children and participants. YIFM premises is monitored by CCTV for security and safeguarding of children and young people.
Use of social media by young people & staff	Social Media policy & procedures to inform staff and young people of correct use of social media and online content. Online content is limited and supervised at all times.
Outdoor activities	Use of correct ratio of staff to children ensuring safety of children and young participants.
Day Trips	Use of correct ratio of staff to children ensuring safety of children and young participants. Regular head counts and check ins to ensure all young people are present, safe and enjoying themselves.
Trips involving overnight stay & residential camps	YIFM Child Protection Policy & Child Welfare Procedures when working in a residential capacity with children & young people. Use of correct ratio of qualified male & female staff to children ensuring safety of all children and young participants.
Use of toilets	YIFM Staff use alternative toilets during times when young people are present. Young people have access to male & female toilets.
Use of off-site facilities for activities	YIFM operates to the extent of their child protection policy and procedure. All off site facilities sign service level agreements in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015.
Administration of First Aid & Medicine	YIFM provides First Aid trained staff at all workshops. YIFM does not administer medicine to young people attending workshops.
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	YIFM work on a case by case basis with the child's parents or guardian to determine the individual needs of the child. Necessary support systems and procedures are then put into place.

#### 4. CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As required by the Children First Act, 2015, the following safeguarding policies/procedures/measures are in place:

- A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed
- Child Protection Policy & Procedures (includes Managing Accidents and Incidents)
- Garda Vetting of all staff, volunteers working with YIFM programmes.
- Code of Behaviour for Working with Children.
- Staff Induction (procedures to inform new staff about the Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying safeguarding policies and procedures)
- All staff have completed the Tusla eLearning module – *Introduction to Children First* and relevant staff have attended Child Protection Training.
- Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support in line with the service policy.
- Social Media Management Policy

#### 5. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

- YIFM recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children and young people safe from harm while availing of our service.
- This Statement will be reviewed every 2 years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.
- This statement has been published on the service website and is displayed in the service. It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_28/02/2020\_\_

Garry McHugh (Director)

**Approved by:** YIFM Governance Sub Committee on 18/05/2022  
Alan Slattery, Niamh O'Donoghue, Steven Murphy

**For further information on this Statement, contact:**

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