

## The Irish Film Institute Child Safeguarding Statement

The IFI is the national body for film in Ireland. Located in Temple Bar, Dublin 2, the remit of the organisation is to Exhibit, Preserve and Educate. We provide access to cultural cinema at IFI, nationally, internationally and online through IFI Player, IFI@Home and IFI@Schools and we create opportunities for audiences to enjoy film and related programmes.

Under the core function of Educate, the IFI welcomes children<sup>1</sup>, young people and families to our venue through our extensive education programme. This programme comprises screenings, a family festival, workshops and other film-based activities and projects in and out of school. While the IFI main film programme is open to adults over 18 through membership, or to the general public within film classification guidelines, we curate programmes for children, families and young people especially, and according to age appropriacy. Our aim is to create an ambient, open and safe environment for all audiences to enjoy and where children availing of our services are safe from ‘harm’.

In providing for young audiences, the IFI is a relevant service for child safeguarding. As defined by the Children First Act (2015), this includes “Any work or activity which consists of the provision of— (a) educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children<sup>2</sup>”.

### What is Child Safeguarding?

Child Safeguarding is about protecting children from harm, promoting their welfare and, in doing so, creating an environment in which children are enabled to grow, develop and achieve their full potential.

### IFI & Child Safeguarding

The IFI is committed to safeguarding all children on our premises and/or engaging with our activities.

### We define our principals for Child Safeguarding as follows:

- We aim to create a safe atmosphere of mutual respect, where all children will have a positive, enjoyable experience in a shared viewing or workshop physical space or using IFI online platforms.
- We programme and curate with reference to age appropriacy, film classification or membership, drawing on film classification guidelines where available or making Age Recommendations to serve as a guide.

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<sup>1</sup> According to Children First: National Guidance, ‘a child’ means a person under the age of 18 years, who is not or has not been married.

[https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children\\_First\\_National\\_Guidance\\_2017.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-2017/relevant-services/>

- IFI staff who are regularly engaging directly with children and young people are Garda vetted and will undertake Tusla online Child Protection Training – Children First E-Learning.
- Facilitators / volunteers engaged by IFI Education will agree our Child Safeguarding Statement and be familiar with our Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures.
- Our Child Safeguarding Procedures (2018) are fully compliant with the Children First Act (2015). The procedures are for all permanent, contract, and freelance staff, as well as volunteers, who engage with children and young people at IFI.
- Any child safeguarding or welfare concerns will be reported to Tusla/Gardaí in a timely manner.

### **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 those risks.

<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>
Non-compliance with the IFI's Child Safeguarding Procedures	<p>All staff, facilitators and volunteers engaging directly with children are provided with the IFI Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures.</p> <p>The Statement will be reviewed every 2 years.</p> <p>Any breach of the Child Safeguarding Procedures will be reported to the relevant line manager and Designated Liaison Person.</p> <p>All events involving children and young people at IFI are facilitated through IFI Education personnel.</p> <p>All film content is offered within the context of IFI membership, IFCO classification or age recommendation.</p>
Incident of inappropriate behaviour by a member of staff	<p>Guidelines on recognising and reporting issues regarding child safeguarding as outlined in the IFI Guiding Principles and Child Safeguarding Procedures.</p> <p>Garda vetting required for all staff engaging directly with children.</p>

	Staff are familiar with procedures and personnel for reporting to Designated Liaison Person and Tusla.
Recruitment of inappropriate person	Recruitment and selection procedures in place. Induction training includes familiarisation with Child Safeguarding procedures. Garda vetting required for any new personnel engaging directly with children.
Inadequate supervision of children	Children are never left unsupervised attending events in IFI Appropriate ratios of supervision adhered to (recommendation 1:8) Teachers/accompanying adults advised to be actively involved in supervision Children under 12 are not allowed in cinema unaccompanied Workshop facilitators are accompanied by IFI personnel in workshop situation Transition Year work placement students are never left unsupervised or required to carry out age-inappropriate tasks Young people under 18 will not be served alcohol at IFI
Incident of inappropriate behaviour by member of the public / workshop facilitator / volunteer	Staff familiar with procedures for reporting to Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla
Online Engagement	All data on children comes under IFI GDPR code of practice <sup>3</sup> Parents/guardian/teachers/young people are informed if images are being recorded spontaneously during events with the possibility of opting out Images can otherwise only be captured with the written consent of the child's parent guardian, or teacher Where images of children are used for IFI promotion purposes, names or additional information that could be used to identify a child are not used Images can only be used by 3rd Party organisations with prior agreement from IFI.

<sup>3</sup> <https://ifi.ie/about/privacy-statement/>

	All film titles hosted on our platforms IFI@Home and IFI@Schools include IFCO classification where available, or indicate IFI Age Recommendation.
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### **Procedures**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements of the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. It operates in conjunction with our Guiding Principles and Child Safeguarding Procedures.

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 appointing a Designated Person

### **Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the Guiding Principles and Child Safeguarding Procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.



**Signatory of this Statement:**

**Provider**

Ross Keane, Director/CEO  
IFI 6 Eustace St.,  
Dublin 2.

For queries in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement please contact Alicia McGivern,  
Head of Education & Designated Person, IFI, 6 Eustace Street, Dublin 2.  
[amcgivern@irishfilm.ie](mailto:amcgivern@irishfilm.ie)