



## Child Safeguarding Statement

### **Name of service being provided:**

Theatre and dance performances and workshops by Fizz & Chips.

### **Nature of service provided:**

Fizz & Chips creates interdisciplinary and effervescent art, for the young of spirit and the open of mind. Blending music, movement, humour and contemporary themes, we seek to make work for adults and young people that will both interrogate and inspire.

We create performances that tour to venues nationally and internationally, including non-theatre settings such as schools, community centres, rehearsal rooms and outdoor spaces.

Additionally, we run performance-based workshops in these spaces for young people. We also facilitate post-show feedback sessions and discussions.

We are committed to the wellbeing of all children and young people engaging with our work. We commit to providing a safe environment and positive experience for all children and young people.

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

Below are Fizz & Chips' principles and procedures which should be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child is safe from harm when availing of our services.

- All Fizz & Chips staff and regular artists/facilitators are Garda vetted.
- All Fizz & Chips 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 or member of Fizz & Chips staff when availing of our services.
- 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 a service provided by Fizz & Chips Theatre.

### **Risk Assessment:**

We have assessed any potential for harm to a child while availing of Fizz & Chips' services. The table below lists the areas of potential risks identified and the list of procedures for the management of these risks.

<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Risk Management Procedure</b>
<b>1. Risk of harm not being recognised by Fizz &amp; Chips staff or artists</b>	Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
<b>2. Non-compliance with Fizz &amp; Chips Child Protection Policy</b>	All staff and artists are provided with the Child Protection Policy. Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be reported to the Designated Liaison Officer
<b>3. Delay in referring concerns to Tusla</b>	All staff are trained and supported to ensure they can act promptly and not delay in contacting Tusla when they deem a referral may be required
<b>4. Receipt of complaint of alleged child abuse where a parent, guardian or teacher is the alleged perpetrator</b>	All staff and artists know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Officer or directly to Tusla. Internal disciplinary processes are in place where the issue concerns an employee
<b>5. A Child discloses sensitive information to a member of staff</b>	All staff and artists know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Officer or directly to Tusla
<b>6. Suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of staff</b>	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla

### **Procedures:**

Fizz & Chips Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the *Children First Act 2015*, *Children First: National Guidance*, and *Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. The following procedures support our intention to safeguard children in addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, while they are availing of our services:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers, volunteers of a child availing of our services

- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- Procedure for the 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 or the Gardaí as appropriate

**Implementation:**

Fizz & Chips recognises that the implementation is an ongoing 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 services. This statement will be reviewed in February 2022 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signatories of this statement: Martha Fitzgerald, Orlaith Ní Chearra and Lindsey Dawson, founding members of Fizz & Chips.

For queries concerning this Child Safeguarding Statement or the Child Protection Policy, please contact [fizzandchipstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:fizzandchipstheatre@gmail.com)