

## Nature of service provided:

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Improvise Music Company (IMC) was founded by Irish jazz musicians and supporters in 1991. Today, we're Ireland's largest specialist music producer, with hands-on involvement in many aspects of music making throughout the island, from festival programming, concert promotion, touring, education and audience development. Some of our activities, particularly community based events or collaborative work with colleagues, involves creating opportunities for children along with their families or friends to discover the joys of spontaneous composition and improvised music. This work is designed to develop young audiences mind's and hearts towards a deeper understanding and appreciation of the arts in daily life.

Improvise Music Company is committed to a child-centred approach in any of our work which involves children and young people. It is central to the philosophy of Improvise Music Company that children are unconditionally respected and kept safe from harm while using our services.

## Principles to safeguard children from harm:

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Below are Improvise Music Company's principles and procedures which should be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child is safe from harm while availing of our services both within our building and off-site.

- All IMC staff are Garda vetted.
- All IMC 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 IMC staff while attending an Improvise Music Company event or IMC co-production with relevant cultural partners .
- 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 an IMC event.

## 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 these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1	Risk of harm to a child due to inadequate supervision of participants	<p>IMC events involving children are staffed to ensure All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy.</p> <p>Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be reported to the relevant event manager.</p> <p>The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years.</p>
2	Risk of harm to a child due to an inappropriate action by an IMC member	<p>All IMC staff are Garda vetted, have received Tusla Children First E-learning training, and are trained in the procedures specified in IMC's Child Protection Policy.</p> <p>All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla.</p> <p>Any breach of the Child Protection Policy at an IMC event will be reported to the relevant event manager.</p> <p>Internal disciplinary processes are in place where the issue concerns an employee.</p> <p>The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years.</p>
3	Risk of harm to a child due to an inappropriate action by an IMC partner/co-producer/facilitator	<p>All IMC partners/co-producers/facilitators involved in an IMC event including children receive a copy of IMC's Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement and are required to adhere to the guidelines therein, as well as any host organisation's policies and procedures.</p> <p>All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla.</p>

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
4	Risk of harm to a child from another source reported to an IMC member/co-producer	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla. The relevant school may also be notified where appropriate.
5	Risk of harm to a child from another source suspected by an IMC staff member/co-producer	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla. The relevant school may also be notified where appropriate.
6	Risk of delay in making referrals to Tusla.	All staff are trained and supported to ensure they can act promptly and not delay in contacting the Designated Liaison Person or Tusla when they deem a referral may be required.

## Procedures

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Improvised Music Company's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the *Children First Act 2015*, and the *Children First: National Guidance*, 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 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 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
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are 'Mandated Persons' as defined under the Children First Act 2015
- Procedure for appointing a Designated Liaison Person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

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# Implementation

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IMC recognises that 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 service. This Statement will be reviewed on 19th January 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signatories of this statement: Kenneth Killeen, CEO.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Killeen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

For queries in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement please contact Kenneth Killeen, CEO and Designated Liaison Person, at the address above or email [ken\[at\]improvisedmusic{dot}ie](mailto:ken[at]improvisedmusic{dot}ie)