
Gravity Dance Academy Child Safeguarding Statement

OUR COMPANY IS PART OF THE GRAVITY DANCE ACADEMY BUSINESS. THIS STATEMENT WILL EXPLAIN HOW OUR ORGANIZATION PROTECTS CHILDREN TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY.

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. While protecting children from abuse is one part of safeguarding, children and young people also need safeguarding in order for them to grow, develop and achieve their full potential.

NAME AND NATURE OF SERVICE ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION:

The name of the service being provided is Gravity Dance Academy. We are located at Sacred Heart National School Hall, Roscrea, Co.Tipperary and St Brendan's Community School, Birr, Co.Offaly. We have (number of staff) altogether, (number) in Roscrea and (number) in Birr. We operate from (hours and days).

ABOUT THE SERVICES PROVIDED:

Here at Gravity Dance Academy we provide the following services to children/young people: Dance in the styles of Hip Hop, Jazz and contemporary. We provide dance classes to children from 4 years right up to 18 years. We have two Centre's for these dance classes, Roscrea and Birr. Level of contact with children? While in our service the students are not permitted to use the internet. Parents/guardians are made aware of this before joining our classes.

ABOUT OUR SERVICE USERS:

At Gravity Dance Academy we work with children from the ages of 4 years old up to 18 years old. There are no individual care needs for the children. In the service we keep our age groups together to support the needs of the children. They are as follows:

- 3-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-13 years
- 14-18years

We adopt the safest possible practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect teachers from the necessity to take risks and leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect. We ensure our teachers have Garda vetting and are fully aware and abide by all policies,

PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM:

Gravity dance Academy have specified the principles to keep the children safe from harm while they are availing of the service: Gravity Dance Academy is committed to providing a safe and happy environment for children and young people who attend our dancing class and for the teachers within the setting. Also, for parents/guardians who have a child attend Gravity Dance Academy.

- We recognize that the welfare of children must always come first, regardless of all other considerations.
- We acknowledge the rights of children to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and have their own view taken into consideration.
- We adopt the safest possible practices to minimize the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect teachers from the necessity to take risks and leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect.
- We have a policy of openness with parents/guardians that involves consulting them about everything that concerns their children.
- We ensure our teachers are Garda vetted and aware of the procedures to be followed if child abuse is suspected /or spoken about by a student.

Our policy declaration applies to teachers of Gravity Dance Academy and any temporary teacher must sign up and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance covered by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy.

Designated Liaison Person: LISA HOGAN

Contact details:

RISK ASSESSMENT:

We at Gravity Dance Academy have carried out an assessment to ensure our teachers that any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	RISK IDENTIFIED	PROCEDURE IDENTIFIED TO MANAGE RISK
1.	The risk of harm to a child using the internet whilst availing of our services	Children are not permitted to use their phones whilst availing of our services. Procedure for child protection and internet.
2.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while in the hall	Children under 12 must always be supervised outside of the dance hall (toilets, Foyer)

3.	Risk of harm to a child from peer-peer abuse	Anti-Bullying procedure Reporting procedure Procedure for training of staff and volunteers Procedure for sharing information with parents and children. Code of behaviour for children and young people Procedure for the safe supervision of children
4.	Risk of harm to a child if unsupervised during collection time	Procedure to ensure safe collection arrangements. Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers Procedure for training staff and volunteers
5.	Risk of harm to a child from staff/volunteer	Recruitment procedure Reporting procedure Procedure for dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers Procedure for training staff and volunteers

PROCEDURES:

Our 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 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 maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

IMPLEMENTATION:

We recognise that implementation is an on-going 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 Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 01/07/2023, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____ (Provider)