**2022 Statement of Assurance of Compliance with the Children First Act 2015**

  We confirm that we have in place a Child Safeguarding Statement in adherence to the recommendations of *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children,* published by the Department of Health and Children, and the Children’s First Act 2015.  - please see the full Child Safeguarding Statement attached to this document.

We have carried out an assessment of any potential risks identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

* We undertake and are committed to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child/young person is paramount.  We will adhere to the recommendations of *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children,* published by the Department of Health and Children, and the Children’s First Act 2015.

* 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 annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

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

Eimear Cheasty.

Manager/Director of Programmes

Little Red Kettle

For queries, please contact Eimear Cheasty.

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**Child Safeguarding Statement**

**Little Red Kettle Theatre Company**

**2022**

**Name of service being provided:**

Little Red Kettleis a youth-based theatre company that services Waterford City and County with its inclusive, interactive, and educational programmes, through the medium of arts-based theatre and drama, catering to young people from age 9 -24 years old.We are based at c/o Garter Lane Arts Centre, 5 O’Connell Street, Waterford.

 **Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm.**

Little Red Kettle Theatre Company is committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children and young people.  We undertake and are committed to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child/young person is paramount.  We will adhere to the recommendations of *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children,* published by the Department of Health and Children, and the Children’s First Act 2015.

**Activities and services provided:**

* Interactive Touring Play (School visits)
* Summer Play/ Summer Camp
* Halloween/Easter Camps – Workshops
* LRK Youth Theatre weekly workhops
* Outreach i.e., Traveller Youth Project and additional projects
* Online Workshops

We believe children have a right to learn in a safe environment where they feel safe and secure and protected.  We undertake to provide an environment free from abuse in all its forms:

1. Emotional
2. Physical
3. Neglect
4. Sexual
5. Online

 **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.

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|  | **Risk identified** | **Procedure in place to manage identified risk** |
| 1 | Bullying of child verbally, physically, or psychological *Online Zoom Classes* - Bullying of child verbally or psychological. | Anti-bullying policy in place.  Anti-bullying procedure provided to all staff.  Adequate supervision is provided to ensure codes are being followed.  It is part of our Child Protection Policy to have at least two responsible adults present whenever we work with children.  Where we must work with an external organisation, we ask that at least one appropriate member of their staff i.e., teacher, leader be included. |
| 2 | Physical Hazards including slips, trips and falls on site of workshops and stage performances.  | Little Red Kettle crew to check on arrival for any known hazards associated with the venue. Give notice with any item incoming onto the stage area during technical set up and rehearsal. All electrical leads etc. to be securely taped down and appropriately marked. Set structures to be inspected before each performance.  The cast will be made aware of any on set hazards including set height etc. Visible walkways to be marked and maintained in darkened areas.  Clear and tidy working space after each rehearsal and performance. |
| 3 | Incorrect use or unauthorised use of taking, storing and publication of Photos and recording videos of plays and rehearsals and Zoom sessions. | All children’s guardians are required to complete a Guardians Consent Form which provides an option for them allowing their child to be photographed or recorded for publicity and broadcast purposes for all media including print, radio, internet, and television.Staff will all be made aware of any child who is not to be photographed. Photos taken by staff on mobile devices are deleted after each workshop and stored securely on our computer for record and media and publicity use where appropriate.   |
| 4 | Child being handed back to an adult who does not have permission to collect child.Child being signed out back into an unsafe environment i.e., parent under the influence.  Child leaving the workshop alone.  | The name and contact number for any adults who can collect a child are recorded on the Guardians Consent Form.  If someone arrives to collect a child that is not on the Consent Form for example, aunt, uncle, grandparent, family friend etc., a member of staff will contact the parent to confirm that the child can go with that adult.If an adult appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs when presenting themselves to collect a child, the staff will not release child into their care and will contact Tusla.  Children can only leave workshops alone if the parent has provided written permission in advance.   |
| 5 | Children presenting themselves with lack of food i.e., relevant for summer camp.  Child not provided with a healthy lunch or insufficient lunch.  | Staff to monitor children’s lunches and to see that all children are provided with a sufficient healthy lunch.  If it is observed that a child is not being provided with a sufficient lunch, the parent will be contacted and requested to bring lunch to the child and to ensure that a suitable lunch is provided and sent with the child each day.  If this does not rectify the problem Tusla will be informed immediately and the child will be fed sufficiently by the company that day.   |
| 6 | A child displays concerning behaviour emotionally, socially, or medically while in our care.*Online Zoom Classe*s - A child displays concerning behaviors emotionally, physically, socially, medically and/or we see something constituting abuse. | Contact will be made with parent to discuss either by phone or at the end of session, whichever is appropriate.  If it is felt that significant action is required and necessary, Tusla will be contacted. Contact will be made with parent to discuss either by phone or at the end of session, whichever is appropriate.  **If it is felt that significant action is required and necessary, Tusla and/or Gardai will be contacted.** |
| 7 | Inappropriate Behaviour in the presence of minors  | All Little Red Kettle personnel have read and signed the Child Protection Policy Statement and been advised regarding appropriate behaviour when in the presence of a minor. It is part of our policy to have at least two responsible adults present whenever we work with children.  Where we must work with an external organisation, we ask that at least one appropriate member of their staff i.e., teacher, leader be included. When we bring our plays to schools, it is necessary to have a teacher or assistant backstage with us during the performance.  This is to aid performers and their health & safety.  All staff/sessional facilitators will be required to consent to Garda Clearance.  No person who would be deemed to constitute a risk will be employed.  Some exclusions would include:1. Any child related convictions.
2. Refusal to sign application form and declaration form.
3. Insufficient documentary evidence of identification.
4. Concealing information on one’s suitability to working with children.
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1. **Procedures**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015 and *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children,* published by the Department of Health and Children, 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:

We have implemented procedures covering:

* Code of behaviour for all staff
* Reporting of suspected or disclosed abuse
* Confidentiality
* Recruitment, training, and selecting staff.
* Managing and supervising staff
* Involvement of primary carers
* Allegations of misconduct or abuse by staff
* Complaints and comments
* Incidents and accidents

Where we work with children through an external organisation (e.g., school, community group) that has the direct contact with the primary carer our child protection policy will be implemented in cooperation with or through that organisation, where appropriate.

1. **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.

1. **Review**

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

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