



## **Child Safeguarding Statement**

### **1. The Dublin Youth Dance Company (DYDC)**

DYDC's constitution states its mission as: to carry on activities of a dance company; provide and arrange performances, festivals, choreography, dance training & other activities. This mission, as interpreted in our strategy, is implemented via 5 key actions:

1. Training & Development – Provide supportive, developmental learning paths. Clear pedagogical & creative goals inform sequenced programmes in contemporary dance & allied disciplines led by expert teachers/choreographers
2. Performance – regular opportunities to perform in theatres, site-specifically and on film. Members experience the joys & discipline of making work collectively through exploration, improvisation, choreography, rehearsal, sharing, public performances
3. Festival – DYDC curates the Irish Youth Dance Festival: showcase performances by youth dance companies; share ideas/experiences; facilitate professional development; network (nationally & internationally); raise the profile & status of youth dance in Ireland
4. Engagement with the Professional Sector – through teaching, master classes, commissions & alumni programmes, DYDC deepens its unique, mutually beneficial relationship with key individuals/companies/organisations in professional dance
5. Leadership & Partnership – represent/advocate/showcase youth dance in Ireland and Irish youth dance abroad. Formally & informally share information/knowledge & create opportunities for exchange/learning

DYDC's Artistic Policy is to provide pathways of high-quality training & ensemble performance opportunities to young dancers/aspiring dance artists, extending the range & deepening the experience of their dancer selves. A policy priority is to act as a 'pivot' between ourselves, the youth dance sector, and the professional dance community, feeding & drawing from it symbiotically.

**2. Dublin Youth Dance Company has a Child Protection Policy (CPP) to help safeguard children / young adults from harm;**

- All members of the teaching staff are Garda vetted.
- Only members Garda vetted can help the dancers backstage or be near the dressing room area.
- Dancers under 18 are instructed to wear DYDC hoodies, in order to be easily identified outside the studio environment when under the Company's responsibility.
- All dancers must sign in and out of the studio and the theatres to ensure a record is kept of where dancers are.

**3. DYDC has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while being a member of the company. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.**

	<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</b>
1	Bullying, name calling or any other behaviour that may cause offence to a fellow dancer.	All dancers sign an agreement/contract which complies with the CPP code of behaviour of DYDC.
2	Injury and health issues	Dancers & Parents are instructed to inform teachers of injuries and health problems the Company should be aware of.
3	Dancers performing in theatres/venues – indoors and outdoors	Theatre protocol talks on health & safety are given to the dancers by Teachers, Stage Managers and Production managers
4	Issues with members of DYDC and staff	At Orientation Day at the beginning of the year Parents & Dancers are advised to communicate with teachers, Director Mariam Ribón and Administrator Michelle Mulraney in the event that any issues arise concerning the members throughout the year. DYDC has procedures in place for the Board of Directors to intervene when required.
5	Signing out unaccompanied	DYDC does not allow its members under 18 to sign out unaccompanied without a parental consent form in place.
6	Risk of harm not being recognised by DYDC personnel	Procedure is in place for the provision of and access to child safeguarding training, induction and information, including the identification of the occurrences of harm.
7	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by DYDC personnel	All personnel will have to report to Administrator Michelle Mulraney or Artistic Director Mariam Ribón, who in turn will report any child protection or welfare concerns to Túsla. All staff are informed of the role and responsibilities of the Designated Person and

		Mandated Persons.
8	Risk of young person being harmed by DYDC personnel	Procedure is in place for the safe recruitment of staff and teachers to work with children and young people, including mandatory Garda vetting. Staff and teachers sign a code of behaviour for DYDC and receive training and support to implement it.
9	Risk of harm caused to a young person due to insufficient trained staff present at an event	A policy is in place for minimum Adult/Young Person ratios.
10	Risk of harm caused to a young person through inappropriate use of video/images taken by a staff member/teacher or participant while attending a DYDC event or activity	Procedures are in place on the appropriate capturing, storage and use of images and footage of young people.
11	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of a young person's personal data.	DYDC is compliant with the GDPR. All staff members sign confidentiality agreements.
12	Risk of harm to young people by third parties when sharing accommodation and other facilities	DYDC takes account of the safety of young people when booking accommodation and travel – e.g. we ensure contained sleeping facilities in our use of commercial hostels/other accommodation.

#### 4. 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 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 Túsula;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the Company who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request, and are listed in our Child Protection Policy.

## 5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. DYDC is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while members of the Company.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 1<sup>st</sup> April annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed on behalf of Dublin Youth Dance Company:



Sharon Murphy  
*Chairperson*



Mariam Ribón  
*Artistic Director*

For queries, please contact Mariam Ribón, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

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*Latest review: February 2022*