CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Organisation Details

Organisation Name: Dublin Youth Dance Company (DYDC)

Address:
6–9 Trinity Street
Dublin 2
D02 EY47
Ireland

Nature of Service

Dublin Youth Dance Company (DYDC) provides youth dance training, creative development, performance opportunities, mentoring, workshops, outreach activities, festivals and exchanges for children and young people.

DYDC works with children and young people through its two core youth dance ensembles, workshops, rehearsals, performances, festivals, outreach programmes, school-based activities, mentoring initiatives and participation in the Irish Youth Dance Festival and other youth arts activities.

DYDC is committed to providing a safe, supportive, inclusive and child-centred environment in which all participants can engage in dance and creative activity.

Commitment to Safeguarding Children

Dublin Youth Dance Company recognises that the welfare of children and young people is paramount.

DYDC is committed to safeguarding children and young people from harm and to ensuring that they are protected while participating in any activity organised, facilitated or delivered by the organisation.

DYDC is committed to implementing the principles of:

- Children First Act 2015
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Equality and Human Rights legislation
- Relevant Data Protection legislation

DYDC seeks to ensure that all children and young people:

- Are treated with dignity and respect.
- Are listened to and valued.
- Feel safe and supported.
- Are protected from abuse, neglect and harm.
- Have opportunities to participate fully in activities.
- Are supported in raising concerns.

Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Dublin Youth Dance Company has undertaken an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of its services.

The following areas of potential risk have been identified:

- Recruitment and engagement of staff, volunteers and freelance artists.
- One-to-one working situations.
- Dance teaching involving physical contact.
- Bullying and peer-to-peer abuse.
- Online communication and digital activities.
- Photography, video recording and social media use.
- Trips, performances, festivals and exchanges.
- Transport arrangements.
- External partners and host venues.
- Inappropriate behaviour by adults.
- Inappropriate behaviour by participants.
- Online exploitation, grooming and cyberbullying.
- Failure to report safeguarding concerns.

- Inadequate supervision.
- Activities involving children and adults participating together.

DYDC has procedures in place to manage and reduce these risks.

Safeguarding Procedures

DYDC has adopted and implemented procedures to manage identified safeguarding risks, including:

Reporting Procedures

Procedures for reporting child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla and, where appropriate, An Garda Síochána.

Managing Allegations

Procedures for managing allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff, volunteers, freelance artists, contractors or Board members.

Recruitment and Garda Vetting

Procedures for the safe recruitment, selection and Garda Vetting of relevant personnel.

Training and Information

Procedures for the provision of safeguarding information, induction, instruction and training to personnel.

Mandated Persons

Procedures for maintaining a register of Mandated Persons, where applicable.

Relevant Person

Procedures for the appointment and support of a Relevant Person in accordance with the Children First Act 2015.

Risk Management

Procedures for identifying, assessing, managing and reviewing safeguarding risks.

Policies and Procedures Supporting this Statement

The following policies and procedures support this Child Safeguarding Statement:

- Safeguarding, Child Protection & Welfare Policy
- Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment
- Codes of Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Photography, Video and Social Media Policy
- Recruitment and Garda Vetting Procedures
- Reporting Procedures
- Complaints Procedures
- Data Protection Procedures
- Health and Safety Procedures

Relevant Person

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the following person has been appointed as the Relevant Person for Dublin Youth Dance Company:

Mariam Ribón
Artistic Director / Designated Liaison Person
Dublin Youth Dance Company
6–9 Trinity Street
Dublin 2
D02 EY47

Email: dydcdirector@gmail.com

Telephone: 086 863 9702

The Relevant Person is the first point of contact regarding this Child Safeguarding Statement.

Availability of this Statement

This Child Safeguarding Statement shall be:

- Made available to all staff, volunteers and contractors.
- Made available to parents and guardians.

- Made available to Tusla upon request.
- Made available to members of the public upon request.
- Displayed publicly where appropriate.

Review

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Dublin Youth Dance Company on:

Date: 22nd September 2026

This Child Safeguarding Statement shall be reviewed at intervals of not more than 24 months and sooner where:

- There is a material change in services.
- There is a significant safeguarding incident.
- Relevant legislation changes.
- National safeguarding guidance changes.
- Organisational structures or activities change.

Next Review Due: September 2028

Declaration

Dublin Youth Dance Company is committed to safeguarding children and young people and has implemented the policies, procedures and practices outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Dublin Youth Dance Company:

Chairperson

Name: Kate Canning (Interim Chair)

Signature: Kate Canning Date: 22nd September 2026

Artistic Director

Name: Mariam Ribón

Signature:  Date: 22/10/2026