



Child Safeguarding Statement

Taking Flight Education and Performance Ltd

1. Description of Activities

Taking Flight is dedicated to the development of circus arts through 3 strands: education, performance and community.

We provide services to a range of participants, practitioners and artists including classes, developmental programmes and community projects. Classes include silks, rope, trapeze, cocoon, wall running, hoop, straps, and acrobatics, as well as a variety of workshops and bespoke courses.

Specifically the activities we provide to children and young people are classes in the above-named disciplines, seasonal camps, ongoing programmes such as a youth theatre, performance opportunities such as showcases of work. We also work with partners such as schools and youth groups to deliver bespoke projects. Our activities for children and young people are open to those aged 7-17.

Our activities are open to all those within this age group with an interest in circus and aerial. Occasionally we design programmes open to specific target groups such as young people with disabilities or groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in our artform.

The vast majority of the organisation's activities are delivered at our studio: Unit 4 Cross Guns Business Park, Royal Canal Bank, Phibsborough, Dublin 3. We may also deliver activities to children and young people in other suitable venues, particularly when working in partnership with other organisations and groups.

Taking Flight is a company limited by guarantee. It is managed by the Company Director with the assistance of an Operations Manager. We do not currently employ staff but we do engage the services of aerial and circus practitioners to deliver our activities.

2. Principles to Safeguard children from harm

Taking Flight is cognisant of the obligation it has to safeguard the children and young people who access its services from harm as required by the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation. We have familiarised ourselves with Children First National Guidance 2017 and best practice guidance in relation to the safeguarding of children.

Our guiding principle in all matters is that the wellbeing and safety of the child/young person is of paramount importance. The company is committed not only to safeguarding children/young people from harm but to ensuring our ethos, approach and practice all serve the needs and safety of young people so they have a positive, safe, enjoyable and rewarding experience when availing of our activities. To this end, we have developed Child Safeguarding policies and procedures including a Code of Conduct for those who deliver our activities.

Taking Flight is also committed to the principle that children and young people have a right to be heard and consulted on matters that affect them.

We are also committed to ensuring all children and young people are valued and treated fairly and equitably regardless of ethnicity, cultural identity, religious persuasion, socio-economic background, gender identity, ability/disability.

3. Risk Assessment

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to mitigate risk identified
Risk of injury during activities	All Tutors engaged by Taking Flight to deliver activities have experience setting up apparatus safely. All apparatus and other equipment are checked prior to activities. All Tutors are instructed never to teach skills that are beyond their own experience and expertise. Taking Flight has a detailed Health and Safety Statement which includes guidance on safe practice. Participants are supervised at all times. A warm-up is conducted prior to all

	<p>activities.</p> <p>Taking Flight requests details of any prior injuries and medical conditions before activities commence.</p> <p>All Taking Flight practitioners are familiar with our Code of Conduct which requires that all activities should be age appropriate and suitable for the needs and abilities of participants.</p> <p>Adequate insurance is in place.</p> <p>Annual Risk Assessments are carried out.</p>
<p>Risk of harm or abuse due to inappropriate behaviour by an adult engaged by Taking Flight.</p>	<p>Garda vetting carried out for all those who have access to children/young people.</p> <p>Safe recruitment procedure for all those who Taking Flight engages. (Included in our Child Safeguarding Policy)</p> <p>A clear Code of Conduct has been developed and all those we engage who have access to children and young people are inducted in the code. (Included in our Child Safeguarding Policy)</p> <p>All individuals engaged are familiar with our Child Safeguarding policy and procedures including reporting procedures and the requirement to report any inappropriate behaviour witnessed.</p> <p>All individuals engaged to deliver activities to young people must participate in child safeguarding training.</p> <p>A procedure is in place for managing any allegations against workers. (Included in our Child Safeguarding Policy)</p>
<p>Risk of inappropriate communications or inappropriate images of a child/young person being circulated.</p>	<p>Taking Flight has developed a policy on communications with young people, use of images and use of our website and social media platforms. (Included in our Child Safeguarding Policy)</p> <p>Young participants are supervised at all times.</p>

	<p>Taking Flight only captures images that are appropriate and related to activities.</p> <p>Consent is sought from parents/guardians and young people for use of images.</p> <p>Clear instructions are provided to parents/guardians regarding when they are permitted to capture photographs or video footage of participants.</p>
<p>Risk of harm being caused to a child or young person from misuse of their personal data.</p>	<p>Taking Flight has a GDPR and Privacy policy. The requirement to keep personal data confidential is included on contracts and in our Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The company has a complaints procedure in place should any individual (including parents and children/young people) have a concern with how their data is managed.</p> <p>All adults involved with Taking Flight are familiarised with the ‘need to know’ principle, i.e. personal information should only be shared in the interest of the child/young person as in the case of a medical emergency or a serious concern about a child/young person experiencing harm.</p>
<p>Risk of bullying</p>	<p>Taking Flight has developed an anti-bullying policy and procedures. (Included in our Child Safeguarding Policy)</p> <p>The requirement of treating everyone involved with respect is included in our Code of Conduct and communicated to all participants through group contracts.</p>

4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the policies and 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 the individuals we engage who work with children/young people.

- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of individuals to work with children/young people
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the requirement to undertake child safeguarding training and familiarity with our Child Safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons who are mandated persons

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. Implementation

Taking Flight recognises that implementation is an ongoing process. The organisation is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children and young people safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in April 2027, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers. Risk Assessments are carried out annually.

Signed _____

Name:

(Provider)

Address:

Email:

Phone:

6. Relevant Person/Contact for queries

For queries, please contact Katie Martin, Operations Manager by email katie.martin@takingflight.ie and Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.