

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. Name of Service:

GRAPHIC STUDIO DUBLIN, Distillery Court, 537 North Circular Road, Dublin 1

2. Nature of Service:

Graphic Studio Dublin was established in 1960 to provide facilities, technical assistance and education for artists wishing to work in the medium of print. The studio is currently based in Distillery House which formed part of the Findlater Mountjoy Brewery. It comprises 7,000 square feet over four floors allowing its 80 members to engage with both traditional and more contemporary printmaking methods. There are currently 2 full-time staff members and 4 part-time staff members employed.

Graphic Studio Dublin is committed to a child-centred approach in our work with children and young people. It is central to the philosophy of Graphic Studio Dublin that children are unconditionally respected and kept safe from harm while using our services.

3. Principles to safeguard children from harm:

- Graphic Studio Dublin is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members and all those who take part in studio activities.
- Graphic Studio Dublin will adhere to the recommendations of The Children First Act 2015 & Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, published by the Department of Health and Children.
- In order to ensure mutual protection, staff/volunteers/artists and other organisations working with Graphic Studio Dublin will be made familiar with our Child Protection Policy and procedures in relation to participation in children and young people's activities.
- Graphic Studio Dublin is a working studio environment and not normally open to the public. Admittance is strictly by appointment only. In the cases of public open days such as Culture Night or Open House, any children who visit the studio are to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. In the interest of safety, visitors have restricted access and are accompanied by a studio member.
- In the case of work experience, the child is supervised at all times by an appointed, experienced staff member, who works to a plan agreed with the Relevant Person. This work experience is organised at the request and with the cooperation of their secondary school and / or parents.
- Graphic Studio Dublin runs an outreach programme of printmaking in schools or in collaboration with another organisation. Graphic Studio representatives who work on outreach work with the children in the presence of their teachers.
- All Graphic Studio Dublin staff with contact to children, young people and vulnerable persons are Garda vetted and have undertaken Tusla online Child Protection training- Children First E-Learning.
- A child in need of personal support because of illness, physical needs or any form of distress, shall be referred in the first place to his/her parent/guardian or teacher. In the absence of a guardian, the staff member working with or supervising the activity will provide such support.

4 Risk Assessment:

1. Non-compliance with Graphic Studio Dublin's Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Statement	All staff are provided with the Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Statement. Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be reported to the relevant line manager.
2. Delay in making referrals to Tusla	All staff are trained and supported to ensure they can act promptly and not delay in contacting the Designated Liaison Person DLP who will report directly to Tusla when they deem a referral may be required.
3. Receipt of complaints of alleged child abuse where a member of Graphic Studio Dublin is the alleged perpetrator.	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the DLP or Deputy DLP and they will report directly to Tusla. Internal disciplinary processes are in place where the issue concerns an employee.
4. Receipt of complaint of alleged child abuse where a parent, guardian or teacher is the alleged perpetrator.	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the DLP who will report directly to Tusla when they deem a referral is required.
5. Child makes a disclosure to a member of staff	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the DLP or directly to Tusla.
6. A suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of staff	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the DLP or directly to Tusla.

5. 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, Graphic Studio Dublin has a Child Protection & Welfare Policy & Procedures document which supports our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service and includes:

- 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 Tusla or the Gardai as appropriate.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are 'Mandated Persons' as defined under the Children First Act 2015 (None in GSD)
- Procedure for appointing a Designated Liaison Person.

6. 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 in January 2025, or as soon as practicable after

there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Robert Russell, Studio Director

Date: 01 01 2025

Contact: Robert Russell, Relevant Person & DLP

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