

YOUTH THEATRE IRELAND
Child Safeguarding Policy
Youth-Friendly Edition

Find out how you can expect Youth Theatre Ireland to keep you safe on our programmes.



Who is Youth Theatre Ireland?

Youth Theatre Ireland is the national development agency for youth theatre in Ireland. As well as running national programmes such as the National Youth Theatre, we support local organizations with advice and resources.

About this Document

This is a summary of our Child Safeguarding Policy. If you are a young person involved in a Youth Theatre Ireland project, this document is for you and your family. It lets you know what to expect from Youth Theatre Ireland, and where to get help and support if you need it.

How does Youth Theatre Ireland engage with young people?

National Youth Theatre
- Year long creative programme for young people 16+

Young Critics -
Residential programme consisting of theatre trips and critical viewing workshops.

Empower Youth Theatre Encounter - Youth Theatre residential for those requiring additional support.

SOUNDBOARD - A programme for young people who want to have their say in policy and governance.

National Festival of Youth Theatres - Week long residential for 100 young people.

Pathways to Professionalism - Equipping young people with skills to work in the theatre industry.



What is child safeguarding?

Child Safeguarding is about:

- Keeping children and young people safe
- Protecting children and young people from harm
- Promoting the welfare and wellbeing of children and young people

Any organisation that works with children or young people must have systems in place to keep children and young people safe. Staff must also know what to do if they are worried about a child or young person.

Our Child Safeguarding policy details in extensive detail how our staff and collaborators should treat children and young people, as well as how to behave around them. We also have guidance around what they should do if they are worried about the safety or welfare of a child or young person.

Child Safeguarding and the law

Children First (2015) states how we are responsible for keeping young people safe.

- **By law, we must create a child safeguarding statement**
 - **This document tells everyone how we work safely with young people**
- **We must contact Tusla or the Gardaí if we are worried**
 - **Tusla is the state child and family agency. It is their job to help people when we are worried about their safety.**
- **The 'UN Convention of the Rights of the Child' is an important list of rights for everyone aged under 18.**

Our commitment to keeping children safe

**ALL YOUNG PEOPLE
HAVE THE RIGHT TO
BE PROTECTED AT
YOUTH THEATRE
IRELAND EVENTS**

**ALL YOUNG PEOPLE
HAVE THE RIGHT TO
BE RESPECTED AT
YOUTH THEATRE
IRELAND EVENTS**

**ALL YOUNG PEOPLE
HAVE THE RIGHT TO
BE LISTENED TO AT
ALL YOUTH THEATRE
IRELAND EVENTS**

**ALL YOUNG PEOPLE
HAVE THE RIGHT TO
HAVE THEIR VIEWS
TAKEN INTO
CONSIDERATION IN
ALL DECISIONS
AFFECTING THEM**

Everyone must follow Youth Theatre Ireland's child safeguarding procedures. This includes:

**ANYONE WHO WORKS FOR
YOUTH THEATRE IRELAND AS A
STAFF MEMBER**

**ANYONE WHO IS CONTRACTED
TO WORK WITH YOUTH THEATRE
IRELAND, SUCH AS
FACILITATORS OR DIRECTORS.**

**ANYONE WHO WORKS AT A
YOUTH THEATRE IRELAND
EVENT, SUCH AS YOUTH
THEATRE LEADERS.**

Who is responsible for child safeguarding at Youth Theatre Ireland?

In every youth organisation, there is somebody who is responsible for keeping you safe, or taking action if you are unsafe. This person is called the DLP. You can contact them if you have any questions about any aspect of child safeguarding.



**Youth Theatre Ireland's
DLP is Cathal Thornton.
He can be reached at
Cathal@youththeatre.ie**

Confidentiality & Trust

Your Concerns Are Safe with Us

We treat all information, and anything you tell us, with the strictest confidence. However, if anyone from YTI is concerned about a young person's welfare or safety, we cannot promise to keep it a secret. We **MUST** share this information with Tusla, or, in an emergency, with the Gardaí. In some circumstances we may also need to tell parents or guardians.



Who is that?



Tusla is the state Child and Family agency

They help children, young people, and families every day. There is a Tusla office in every county. No matter what is going on in your life, Tusla will know how to help. Their job is to keep you safe.

REMEMBER, IT IS THE JOB OF EVERYONE AT YOUTH THEATRE IRELAND TO KEEP YOU SAFE. THAT MEANS IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN YOU CAN SPEAK TO ANY TEAM MEMBER YOU TRUST AND FEEL COMFORTABLE SPEAKING WITH.

Understanding harm and abuse

Sometimes, it takes an understanding of different types of abuse to recognise when something isn't right. Here are some examples of what we would consider ways young people can come to harm. If you are unsure, you can ask someone for help.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is when an adult hurts a child or young person on purpose. For example, hitting them, or letting someone hit them.

Neglect

Neglect is when a child or young person isn't being looked after properly. For example:

- Not having enough to eat
- Not having a safe home
- Being left alone too much.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is when an adult:

- Says or does things to deliberately make a child or young person feel bad about themselves
- Isn't caring or supportive
- Makes a child or young person feel unsafe.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is when an adult, or sometimes another young person, uses a child or young person for sexual purposes like:

- Touching them inappropriately
- Asking for intimate pictures
- Forcing them to have sex

How do we keep young people safe?

There are many things we do to keep young people safe from harm

RECRUITMENT:

We ensure all staff have the right experience, qualifications, and attitudes to work with young people.

TRAINING:

All staff are taught about our organisation, how we work, and how we expect them to work with young people.

RECORDS

We keep records of who is up to date with Garda Vetting and Training

COMMUNICATION:

We are clear about what is and is not an appropriate way to communicate with you/your parents/guardians.

GARDA VETTING:

We check with the Gardai to see if any staff member has a criminal record.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR:

We ensure all staff know and understand how we expect them to behave.

RESPONSIBILITY

We ensure all staff know that the welfare of young people is everyone's

ZERO TOLERANCE

We have a zero tolerance approach to bullying and all forms of discrimination

**YOUTH
THEATRE**

IRELAND

Want to know more?

If you'd like to know more about Youth Theatre Ireland's Child Safeguarding Procedures, scan the QR code below to be linked to our full policy.

