



Watergate Theatre Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of Organisation:

Watergate Theatre, Parliament Street, Kilkenny

Purpose of Organisation:

Watergate Theatre is committed to enriching the lives of all citizens in Kilkenny by providing access to high-quality arts and cultural experiences. We strive to present outstanding cross-disciplinary arts events by local, national, and international practitioners throughout the year. Our goal is to create opportunities for our community to engage with the arts, working closely with artists to ensure these experiences are accessible, affordable, and inclusive. We are dedicated to supporting the development of local arts, building partnerships within both artistic and non-artistic communities, and deepening engagement across all sectors, with a particular focus on children, young people, and diverse audiences.

Reason for Having a Child Protection Statement:

Watergate Theatre regularly presents work for audiences of all ages, including children under 18 years. We also produce and host performances involving children, whether through local groups, our own productions, or visiting schools and academies. We are fully committed to a child-centred approach in all our activities involving children and young people, ensuring their safety and wellbeing is always our top priority. We adhere to all requirements of Children First: National Guidance and all relevant child protection guidelines issued by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Tusla, in accordance with the Children First Act 2015.

Risk Assessment and Procedures:

Watergate Theatre engages with children and young people in the following ways:

1. As audience members attending events, typically accompanied by parents, guardians, or teachers.
2. As participants in workshops and projects, sometimes attending without parents or guardians.

Procedures:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement is developed in line with 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 our risk assessment, the following procedures support our commitment to safeguarding children:

- Complaints Policy and Procedures
- Recruitment Policy and Procedures
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedures
- Safe recruitment and selection of workers
- Provision of, and access to, child safeguarding training and information, including identification of harm
- Reporting procedures for child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla or An Garda Síochána
- Maintenance of a list of 'Mandated Persons' as defined under the Children First Act 2015
- Appointment of a Mandated Person
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedures

Implementation of Procedures:

We recognise that safeguarding is an ongoing process. Watergate Theatre is committed to the continuous implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and all supporting procedures to ensure the safety of children participating in our programmes and activities.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on the 24th of September 2025, or as soon as practicable after any material change in relevant circumstances.

Designated Liaison Person:

Sarah Brennan, Front of house and Box Office Manager

Email: boxoffice@watergatetheatre.com

Deputy Liaison Person:

Joanna Cunningham, Executive Director

Email: director@watergatetheatre.com

All procedures referenced are available on our website or upon request.

Use of Images and Data:

All staff must follow our social media and data protection procedures, including obtaining consent for the use of images and adhering to our GDPR code of practice regarding children's data.

External Groups and Productions:

Any external company or group using Watergate Theatre facilities for events involving children or vulnerable adults must:

- Read and adhere to Watergate Theatre's Child Protection Policy
- Be informed of adult/child ratios and backstage maximum numbers
- Appoint a Designated Liaison Person
- Ensure no crew member has unresolved or concerning child protection issues

- Review and implement their own Child Protection Policy and provide a copy to Watergate Theatre
- Garda vet all relevant personnel as required

Any concerns must be reported immediately to the Designated Liaison Person.

Child Safety Breach Procedures:

- All staff, artists, and partners are provided with the Child Protection Policy and receive training every two years, including the Tusla Children First E-Learning programme.
- A list of mandated persons is maintained as required.
- Prompt reporting to the Mandated Person or Tusla is ensured.
- The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every two years.

Allegations or Disclosures:

- All staff are trained to refer concerns or disclosures to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla.
- Internal disciplinary processes are in place for staff-related allegations.
- Partners and schools are notified as appropriate.
- Watergate Theatre collaborates with partners on joint reporting where necessary and shares Child Protection Policies in advance of projects.