

The Douglas Hyde Gallery of Contemporary Art

Child Safeguarding Statement

20 September 2022

The Douglas Hyde Gallery of Contemporary Art (DH) was co-founded by the Arts Council/An Comhairle Ealaíon and Trinity College Dublin in 1978 as Ireland's first publicly funded gallery dedicated to contemporary art and Ireland's first university gallery.

We present inspiring and challenging contemporary art to generations of audiences. We work closely with both emerging and established artists to present pivotal solo exhibitions, presenting new bodies of work by Irish artists, and introducing key international artists to audiences in Ireland. We are a supportive yet challenging artist-centred space, presenting, producing and commissioning work by some of the most exciting artists of our time. Alongside our exhibition programme, the DHG has a multi-layered programme of targeted public engagement, with free biweekly tours, artist talks, multidisciplinary events and screenings.

The DH brings together artistic excellence, producing and commissioning new work, and expanded and ambitious programmes for public engagement and learning. We see art's role as key in shaping the society we live in and the gallery as a space to foster artists and audiences.

The DH is committed to contributing to a culture of safety in the arts that promotes the welfare of children availing of services, and is committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children and young people. To this end, the DHG has developed a Child Protection and Welfare Policy and a Child Safeguarding Statement, and has appointed staff members in key roles: Relevant Person, Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person.

The DH currently has ten employees: four full-time and five part-time. The full-time employees are: the Director, Learning & Engagement Curator, and Gallery Manager as well as the Provost's Curatorial Fellow. The part-time employees are all Gallery Assistants. The Gallery also employs contract workers from time to time (e.g. technicians during installation periods).

The Douglas Hyde currently runs child-specific educational programmes and it also does happen that children have contact with DHG staff while availing of other services.

Procedures

This 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 below, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

The Douglas Hyde

Registered Charity No. CHY6700

thedouglashyde.ie

An Dubhghlas
de hÍde

Gallery of
Contemporary Art

Gailearaí na hEalaíne
Comhaimseartha

Trinity College
Dublin 2

Coláiste na Tríonóide
Baile Átha Cliath

arts
council
ireland funding
visual arts

Trinity College Dublin
College of Arts, Design & Architecture
The University of Dublin

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- 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 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;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

Risk Assessment

We have carried out a risk assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Through this we have highlighted the need to update all our employees with our new Child Protection Policy and Procedures, including updating our Garda vetting.

Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1.	Incident of inappropriate behaviour by a member of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHG Child Protection Policy in place and reviewed biennially • Guidelines on recognising, recording and reporting child protections issues are as outlined in the Policy • Child Protection training made available to all staff as part of induction • Work practices continuously evaluated and training updated as required • Garda vetting required for all staff of the DHG • There are two members of staff on-site at all times, which significantly reduces the risk of a child being left alone with a member of staff
2.	From time to time, the DHG receives groups of secondary school students for guided tours of the exhibitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All school groups visiting the DHG will be accompanied by their teacher throughout the tour. Where the group is a large one, the number of adults present relative to children will be in the appropriate ratio (as specified by the Children First Act 2015).
3.	The DHG offers free biweekly tours of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on the nature of the exhibition, a second member of staff may be downstairs in the DHG

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	exhibitions during periods when it is open to the public. These are led by a member of staff. It is possible that, on a given day, the tour might include only young people.	invigilating while the first member of staff leads the tour. In the case where there is no member of staff downstairs invigilating and the tour group contains only children, a second member of staff will be called upon to join the tour. In the event that a second member of staff is unavailable, the tour will not go ahead.
4.	Incident of inappropriate behaviour by member of the public while in The Douglas Hyde Gallery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two members of staff on-site at all times • Child Safeguarding Statement on view to public to ensure awareness of routes to reporting an incident • Whole-staff awareness of spotting signs of abuse and reporting procedures • CCTV is in place in all public areas of the DHG
5.	Recruitment of an inappropriate person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and selection policy procedures in place for all staff and contract workers • Garda vetting required for all staff of the DHG • Induction training includes Child Protection
6.	Unquestioning trust of long-term employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term staff to be re-vetted by Garda Vetting Unit in line with best practice guidelines • Child Protection Training made available • Work practices continuously evaluated and guidelines and training updated as appropriate • CCTV is in place in all public areas of the DHG
7.	Online Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is DHG policy not to use photos of children taken at events on our website/social media profiles
8.	Access to the Gallery by an unaccompanied minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two members of staff on-site at all times • CCTV is in place in all public areas of the DHG
9.	Inadequate supervision of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should never be left unattended or unsupervised

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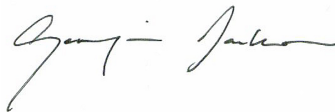
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult/child ratios should always be adhered to and increased for specific events as per guidelines• School groups must be accompanied by their teacher/parents in the appropriate ratio• CCTV is in place in all public areas of the DHG
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Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. The Douglas Hyde Gallery is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while visiting and interacting with the DHG.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed biannually in January, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Dr Georgina Jackson, Director, The Douglas Hyde

For queries, please contact Fernando Sanchez (E: fernando.sanchez@tcd.ie T: +353 1 896 1116), DHG Designated Liaison Person and/or Rachel McIntyre (E: Rachel.mcintyre@tcd.ie T: +353 1 896 1116), DH Deputy Designated Liaison Person.