

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Approved by the Board: 20 May 2026

Reviewed by	The Board
Review Timescale	2 years (May 2028)

1. Name of Service being provided: CloughJordan Circus Club,
St Kieran's Hall,
Main Street,
Townfields,
CloughJordan,
Co Tipperary.

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

CloughJordan Circus Club is a youth arts organisation for youth and social circus, located in CloughJordan, (rural North Tipperary). Our aim is to advance the artistic, personal and social development of young people through circus arts. We are committed to creating an imaginative, inclusive learning experience where all young people can reach their full potential.

We work with young people aged 8 – 25 years. We carry out a range of activities including weekly classes, performances, rehearsals, trips and youth exchanges / gatherings. Circus skills taught include juggling, diabolo, hat manipulation, unicycle, tightwire, rola bola, acrobalance and pyramid building as well as clowning and performance skills.

Policy Statement

Cloughjordan Circus Club is committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children and young people. It is central to the philosophy of Cloughjordan Circus Club that children are unconditionally respected and kept safe from harm whilst engaging with staff/volunteers from Cloughjordan Circus Club.

This statement is based on the Children First Act 2015 and Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.

Our aim is to create a safe, creative and fun environment where children and young people can flourish. As a youth circus project that is in contact with young people through projects, classes and workshops we believe:

- The welfare of the child and the young person is paramount.
- Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.
- All children and young people, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Staff and volunteers should be clear on how to respond appropriately.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.
- Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
- Staff/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation

1. Risk Assessment

Section 2 of the Children First Act defines harm as follows: ‘harm means in relation to a child (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects, or is likely to seriously affect the child’s health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child’.

We have conducted a risk assessment in relation to the potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the corresponding procedures for managing these risks. A more detailed risk assessment is available on request.

	Risk Identified	Procedures in place to manage identified risk
1.	Risk of harm not being recognised by circus personnel	Procedure for provision of an access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
2.	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by circus personnel	All personnel are provided with a copy of the child protection and welfare policy, containing the reporting procedure and the role and contact details for the DLP. All personnel are trained in Child safeguarding and protection.
3.	Risk of young person being harmed by Circus personnel	Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff/volunteers to work with children. Procedure for the training and support of staff/volunteers. Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers
4.	Risk of harm to a young person while on an overnight trip.	Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff/volunteers. Procedure for training of staff/volunteers Code of behaviour for staff/volunteers Procedure for overnight trips
5.	Risk of harm due to bullying of a young person	Anti-bullying policy Group contract for young people
6.	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of ICT and online activity	Procedure for safe use of online technology
7.	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images of young people	Procedure for the use of images and recording
8.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision on young people	Procedure for adult/young person ratios Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers Circus Teaching Code of Practice and Circus Teaching H&S Risk Management Strategy All personnel provided with copies of above and trained in procedures

2. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015 and in line with Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017). In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children and young people while they are availing of our service.

Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child/young person 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

Procedure for maintaining a list of persons in Cloughjordan Circus Club who are mandated persons

Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures listed are available on request.

3. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of the 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 **May 2028**, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Fiona Nolan

Chair of Board

For queries, please contact the **DLP Joanna Williams, email: cloughjordancircusclub@gmail.com** who is the Relevant Person under the Children First Act.

In the case of Joanna Williams not being available our Deputy DLP and member of our Board of Directors is **Antonia O'Keeffe, email: toniaok@eircom.net**

