

# Child Protection and Welfare - Quality Assurance Self-Audit

## East Coast Dance Arts (ECDA) – Interim Child Protection Policy

### Introduction

In accordance with **Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)** and the **Children First Act 2015**, East Coast Dance Arts (ECDA) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children who participate in our programmes.

As an organisation engaging with young dancers and audiences, we acknowledge our responsibility to comply with national child protection regulations. This **Quality Assurance Self-Audit** has been adapted from the Arts Council of Ireland's framework to assess our current compliance with child safeguarding standards.

### Key Commitments:

- ECDA is dedicated to promoting the welfare of children and young people.
- We comply with relevant legislation, including **Children First Act 2015**, **National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016**, and **Tusla's Child Safeguarding Guidance**.
- Our **Child Safeguarding Statement** is reviewed **every two years** or upon any material change in our activities.
- A **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)** is appointed to oversee child protection procedures.
- All staff and volunteers engaging with young people must undergo **Garda vetting** and **child protection training**.
- Our policies include **risk assessment procedures**, **reporting guidelines**, and **clear behavioural codes** for all staff working with children.
- ECDA ensures that all programme information regarding child safety is **available to parents, guardians, and Tusla upon request**.

For detailed safeguarding information, please refer to:

- **Children First National Guidance for Child Protection and Welfare 2017**
- **Tusla: Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement**
- **Tusla: A Guide for Reporting Child Protection and Welfare Concerns**