

Safeguarding Children Policy

Reviewed August 2024

Organisation:	Feis Lios na Scéithe
Designated Officers:	Kathleen Breen
Venue:	As detailed in Syllabus

1) Purpose and Function of the organisation

We provide a platform for professionally adjudicated competitions in the Arts for school children in the Lisnaskea and surrounding areas. The objectives of the organisation are to encourage the study, cultivation and promotion of the Arts and for those purposes, to hold one event each year.

2) The Competition Environment

The organisation seeks to create a supportive and safe environment. Parents should be aware that some competitions are held in public premises. Parents, guardians, carers and teachers need to ensure that children are adequately supervised by a responsible adult and should be accompanied at all competitions by parents or a responsible adult.

3) To whom does this Policy apply

This policy relates to children under the age of 18 years. In recognition of the needs of children from minority ethnic groups or those with Special Educational Needs, the organisation actively seeks to meet those needs which are notified to the organisation by parents, guardians, carers and or teachers at the time of entry to the competition.

4) Personnel

ACCESS NI has checked all personnel who may have direct contact with children. With the exception of adjudicators, accompanists and musicians, all personnel are volunteers and are aware of and support this Safeguarding Children Policy. All personnel provide contact details, which are logged into the Feis records. All personnel will be identified by name badges and in the event of a problem, will be able to direct you to someone who will help you. Any problem will be dealt with, documented and kept on record for 3 years.

5) Preparation for Attendance at Competitions

Any child who is entered into a competition must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a parent/guardian/carer and that person must have access to a copy of this Safeguarding Children Policy. Children should be supervised at all times both inside and outside the premises. Consideration for competitors should be observed at all times.

6) Photographs, Video-tapes and Press Photography

The organisation has a strict Safeguarding Policy and cannot allow any photography, or recordings, during performance and adjudication.

Where press have been invited to take photographs and you do not wish your child to be photographed, then you must let the photographer know. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that their child is not photographed if they do not wish for this to take place.

7) Policy Review

The organisers will review this policy annually, altering it as necessary, seeking guidance from the association of Irish Festival Events who are directed by other agencies, most notably the NSPCC and the Arts Council for Northern Ireland for policy guidelines. This policy has been reviewed in August 2024. If you require a copy of this policy in another format or language please contact the Feis secretary.

Summary

The organisation seeks to work in partnership with parents, guardians, carers and/or teachers to ensure the safety of the children involved in competitions, whether as participants or observers. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and are not the responsibility of the organisation's personnel.