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Online Safeguarding Policy

Eventi Management is committed to a child-centred approach in all our work. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child is paramount. This policy extends Eventi Management’s Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy which is available on our website: http://www.summersing.ie/safeguarding/.

Eventi Management will extend the opportunity to take part in the its festivals and events via the internet using videotelephony using Zoom, Skype or other similar services. In facilitating access to the festivals and events via the internet, Eventi Management commits to adhering to the following best practices in the interest of safeguarding both child participants and staff/facilitators.

**Child Protection Concerns Related to Online Engagement**

Engaging with children over the internet raises the following concerns in relation to child protection:

* The situation introduces the child to the idea of communicating with an adult that is not part of their family group over the internet. This is not a practice that should come to be considered normal by the child and it should be emphasised by parents that communicating in this manner is something that requires permission and supervision;
* This method of interaction for the purposes of entertainment and/or education invites the teacher/facilitator into the participant’s home, and vice versa, without being physically present and, therefore, possibly unknown to other members of either household. There should be an awareness on behalf of all involved that there is someone virtually present in their home and that everyone’s actions need to be reflected in this.
* Eventi Managment’s facilitators undertake as part of our Child Protection Policy to report any concerns over child welfare to Sinéad Dunphy (sinead@eventi.ie) or Mary Watson (mary@eventi.ie), who are the designated liaison persons with Eventi Management for child welfare matters. This relates not only to the child participant but to the welfare of any child in the location in which they are working, physically or virtually.

**Parental Consent**

Written parental consent shall be sought for the purposes of:

* Engaging with the young person in their home, or other locations as decided, via live video calls (Zoom video calls)
* Agreeing to allow access to Eventi Management provided resources/events on the parent’s devices only

**Location and Supervision of Sessions**

* All sessions should be held in an area of the home that is open and accessible to the parents of participant. Sessions should not, for instance, take place in a room with a closed door without parental/guardian’s supervision.
* A parent/guardian or other responsible adult should be available to drop in and out of the teaching space throughout the duration of the session
* All sessions and interactions on the childs’ part must take place using videotelephony addresses that are controlled by or fully accessible to parents / guardians.
* All sessions and interaction with child participants on facilitators’ part must take place using organisational addresses that are provided by and controlled by Eventi Management. Facilitators should not use their own personal videotelephone addresses for the purposes of contact with child participants

**Open Door Policy**

* Eventi Management operates an open-door policy in relation to internet sessions. This means that organisational staff have access to individual “rooms” or accounts and may join a session at any time. This is similar to open door policies existing in the non-virtual world which provide right-of- access for the safeguarding of young people.

**Email Addresses (for Zoom classes)**

* All sessions and interactions on the participant’s part must take place using (a) parent/guardian’s email addresses as given at the registration stage and (b) devices owned by the parent/guardian

**Alternative Contact Methods**

* Any and all communications between participant and facilitator must be fully controlled by or accessible to parents.

**Grounds for Concern**

The grounds for concern laid out in Eventi Managment’s Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy shall apply in all sessions given over the internet and shall apply to all children in the participant’s home. This includes things that happen in the background or off-camera. If a parent has any concerns about the process or relationship between participant and facilitator, they should contact Sinéad Dunphy or Mary Watson, the designated liaison persons with Eventi Management to discuss the situation. Eventi Management undertakes to investigate all complaints or concerns regarding its teaching staff in line with our Child Protection Policy. Raising Concerns for the welfare of students will be dealt with in line with in Eventi Management’s Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy.

**Recording of Sessions**

We recognise the practical need of sometimes recording sessions and also the usefulness of recordings in promoting online engagement and participation. Internet sessions will not be routinely recorded but may be recorded for practice purposes or for documenting and promotion Eventi Management activities.

Sessions may only be recorded with the explicit consent of both the staff/facilitating team and the parent/guardian of each participant.

**General Code of Conduct**

All participants in Eventi Management’s programmes online must agree to:

* Treat all users, educators and colleagues fairly and equally. Stimulate conversation, be respectful of others’ views, and refrain from personal attacks
* Respect legitimate intellectual property rights, do not plagiarise work, and give credit to the originators of ideas

Signed Sinéad Dunphy and Mary Watson

May 2022