** CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

 **January 2018**

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT:** The safety of children and vulnerable adults is paramount and all, without exception, have the right to protection. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously, responded to swiftly and appropriately, and all the Féile’s staff have a responsibility to report concerns.

**Purpose and function of the organisation:**

Féile Luimnigh provides a platform for amateur performance in Music, Speech and Drama, Vocal, Instrumental Music and Labhairt na Gaeilge with an educational input from Professional Adjudicators.

**The feile environment:**

It is the policy of Féile Luimnigh to inform and involve parents, guardians and teachers with Féile Luimnigh in order to ensure, as far as practicable, a safe environment at our Féile. We do this by posting this policy on our website [www.feileluimni.com](http://www.feileluimni.com) and making all teachers aware of it. It is the responsibility of all parents/teachers/guardians and carers to care for their children and young people and those in their care while attending the Feile. Feile Luimnigh will not act “in loco parentis” in the care of minors.

**Supervision of public areas during the Féile:**

Féile Luimnigh takes all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children and young people while attending the Féile. Feile personnel do not directly supervise public areas at all times. The safety of our patrons is important to us and to that end Féile Luimnigh requests that parents/guardians/carers and teachers ensure that children or young people under their care are supervised at all times when using public areas such as toilets, tuck shop, lobby etc. Concerns in relation to patron safety should be reported immediately to Féile personnel on duty. Féile personnel, will not be responsible for the supervision or care of unaccompanied children and young adults. Where parents, guardians, carers and teachers are not personally attending the Féile with their children, this Policy requires that they are satisfied that their children/young adults will be accompanied to the Féile and adequately supervised by responsible adults acting on their behalf.

**To whom does this policy apply:**

This policy relates to children under the age of 18 years and members of vulnerable groups of any age whose needs are identified to the organizers by parents/teachers/carers and teachers prior to their attending the Féile. This should be done by contacting, in writing, one of the people listed at the foot of this document. Féile Luimnigh actively seeks, wherever possible, to meet these needs. Prior contact is necessary to confirm that the level of assistance required can be met.

**Festival personnel:**

All Féile personnel are identifiable by a badge bearing the name and logo of the Féile and their own name. Please inform all children and young adults that they should contact a Féile member if they have any query or experience any difficulty. Every problem will be taken seriously, documented and dated.

**Performance and practice:**

All participants who need costumes are advised to arrive in costume. Changing facilities will not be provided. Féile doesn’t guarantee practice facilities for any competitor prior to competition. Entry to competition halls during performance will be at the discretion of Féile personnel.

**Photographs,video/audio recording.**

Use of any kind of audio or video equipment is strictly prohibited for the protection of all children/young adults participating in Féile. Parents, guardians, carers and teachers are requested to help ensure that this prohibition is enforced.

**Guidance that supports this document:**

This policy is in conformity with the State Guidelines:

*Children First, 2011*

**Policy review:**

The Executive of Féile Luimnigh will constantly review this policy improving and updating it as necessary.

**The child protection officers are:**

 Mary Scanlan and Marie Rigney.

Contact address:

Conradh na Gaeilge,

Halla Ide,

18, Thomas Street,

Limerick.