

فنون و تربية

Art et Éducation

L'Art Rue

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Child Protection
Policy of
L'Art Rue

To ensure
safeguarding and wellbeing
of children

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الشارع فن

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Introduction

Since its creation in 2006, L'Art Rue puts the artists and their creative work at the heart of a larger civic project and the democratic transmission process of Tunisia. L'Art Rue encourages collective work in order to promote social cohesion, inclusion, diversity and development through art and to develop critical analysis and artistic proposals on the relationship between art, society, heritage, memory, territory, citizenship, politics and public space. It offers a positive counterweight to discrimination, inequalities, and abuse of power, giving a voice to minorities and marginalized communities by exploring issues related to human rights, fundamental freedoms, diversity, etc.

Since 2012 L'Art Rue also works with children (6 to 12 years old). They have been involved

in the “Change your classroom” project that aimed to transform commonplaces in public primary schools into creative spaces for children. The transformation was effected according to the wishes of children, in collaboration with young artists (designers, architects and set designers). From 2012 to 2019, nine (9) “Change your classroom” projects were implemented in public primary schools in Tunis, Bizerte and Kairouan. Moreover, artistic workshops with children and teenagers (6 to 16 years old) are organized by L’Art Rue during the year and during school holidays, designed to help children express their emotions, decrease violent behaviour, and deal with difficulties of all kinds.

Our child protection policy promotes a positive and nurturing environment while protecting children, L’Art Rue staff, facilitators and volunteers.

This document is aligned with national and international legislation:

Code de la Protection de l’Enfant Tunisie (Tunisia’s Child Protection Code)
<https://www.jurisitetunisie.com/tunisie/codes/cde/cde1005.htm>

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child:
<https://www.ohchr.org/fr/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

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Child Protection Policy of L'Art Rue

I. General Policies

1. To protect L'Art Rue staff, facilitators, volunteers and children, the staff/ facilitators/ volunteers are not to be alone with a single child (unless approved) where he or she cannot be observed by others.

2. In situations where one-on-one interactions are approved, such as tutoring and private coaching sessions, staff/ facilitators and volunteers should observe the following policies to prevent the risk of abuse or false allegations of abuse:

When meeting one-on-one with a children, always do so in a public place where you are in full view of others.

Avoid physical affection that can be misinterpreted. Limit affection to pats on the shoulder, high-fives, and handshakes.

If meeting in a room or office, leave the door open or move to an area that can be easily observed by others passing by.

Document and immediately report any unusual incidents, including disclosures of abuse or maltreatment, behaviour problems and how they were handled, injuries, or any interactions that might be misinterpreted.

If the tutoring and coaching sessions of our organization occur outside of the organization's premises, a signed authorization by the guardian is required.

3. Restroom supervision: Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers will make sure the restroom is not occupied by suspicious or unknown individuals before allowing children to use the facilities. Staff/ facilitators /volunteer will monitor the restroom area while it is being occupied by children. This policy allows privacy for the children and protection for the staff (not being alone with a child). If staff is assisting younger children, doors to the facility must remain open. The "rule of three" will be followed (i.e. two children and one staff; two staff and one child; or a staff, child, and facilitator /volunteer) at all times.

4. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers will take note of any fever, bumps, bruises, burns, and all symptoms or issues that are visible on a child. Questions or comments will be addressed to the parent or child in a non-threatening way. If a child states that the parent caused an injury, staff/ facilitator/volunteer will contact program director immediately. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers will document any questionable marks or responses.

5. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers will respond to children in a respectful manner and consideration and treat all children equally, regardless of sex, race, religion, culture, economic level of the family, or disability.

6. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers may not transport children in their own vehicles or allow youth participants old enough to drive to transport younger children in the program.

7. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers may not be alone with children they meet in L'Art Rue programs outside of the L'Art Rue setting. This includes babysitting, sleepovers, driving or riding in cars, and inviting children to their homes. Any exceptions require a prior approval of the parents.

8. L'Art Rue prohibits the access, display, production, possession, or distribution of pornography on the L'Art Rue property or equipment or during any L'Art Rue associated activity.

9. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers will not give excessive gifts (e.g., TV, video games, jewellery) to children.

10. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers may not date program participants who are under the age of 18.

11. Under no circumstances will staff/ facilitators/ volunteers release children in child programs to anyone other than the authorized parent, guardian, or other adult authorized by the parent or guardian (written parent authorization).

12. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers are to report to a supervisor any observation or suspicion of another staff/ facilitator or volunteer in violation of these policies.

13. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers will not abuse children in any way, including:

Physical Abuse – striking, spanking, shaking, slapping
Verbal Abuse – humiliating, degrading, threatening
Sexual Abuse – touching or speaking inappropriately
Mental Abuse – shaming, withholding kindness, being cruel
Neglect – withholding food, water, or basic care

14. We do not tolerate the mistreatment or abuse of one child by another child.

15. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers are not responsible for arranging personal travel accommodations outside of L'Art Rue programs.

16. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers shall not withhold as punishment or require as punishment any physical activity, such as running laps and doing push-ups.

17. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers will immediately notify their appropriate Human Resource Manager if they are arrested or convicted of a crime involving children while they are employed by the organization.

II. Bullying

We do not tolerate any behaviour that is classified under the definition of bullying, and to the extent that such actions are disruptive, we will take the necessary steps to eliminate such behaviour.

Bullying is aggressive behaviour that is intentional, is repeated over time, and involves an imbalance of power or strength. Bullying can take on various forms, including:

1. Physical bullying – when one person engages in physical force against another person, such as by hitting, punching, pushing, kicking, pinching, or restraining another.

2. Verbal bullying – when someone uses their words to hurt another, such as by belittling or calling another hurtful names.

3. Nonverbal or relational bullying – when one person manipulates a relationship or desired relationship to harm another person. This includes social exclusion, friendship manipulation, or gossip. This type of bullying also includes intimidating another person by using gestures.

4. Cyberbullying – the intentional and overt act of aggression toward another person by way of any technological tool, such as email, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings (including blogs). Cyberbullying can involve:

Sending mean, vulgar, or threatening messages or images

Posting sensitive, private information about another person

Pretending to be someone else in order to make that person look bad

Intentionally excluding someone from an online group

5. Hazing – an activity expected of someone joining or participating in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers that person regardless of that person's willingness to participate.

6. Sexualized bullying – when bullying involves behaviours that are sexual in nature. Examples of sexualized bullying behaviours include sexting, bullying that involves exposures of private body parts, and verbal bullying involving sexualized language or innuendos.

7. Anyone who sees an act of bullying, and who then encourages it, is engaging in bullying- this policy applies to all children, youth, staff, facilitators and volunteers. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers must use positive techniques of guidance, including redirection, positive reinforcement, and encouragement rather than competition, comparison, and criticism. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers will have age-appropriate expectations and set up guidelines and environments that minimize the need for discipline. Physical restraint is used only in predetermined situations (when necessary to protect the child or other children from harm), administered only in a prescribed manner, and must be documented in writing post incident.

III. Defining Appropriate and Inappropriate Physical Contact

L'Art Rue encourages appropriate physical contact with children and prohibits inappropriate displays of physical contact. Any inappropriate physical contact by staff towards children in L'Art Rue programs will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment/volunteer experience.

1. Staff/ facilitators / volunteers will respect children's rights not to be touched or looked at in ways that make them feel uncomfortable, and their right to say no. Other than dia-

pering, children are not to be touched on areas of their bodies that would be covered by a bathing suit.

2. Staff/ facilitators/ volunteers will refrain from intimate displays of affection in the presence of children, parents, and staff/ facilitators/ volunteers.

3. The L'Art Rue policies for appropriate and inappropriate physical interactions are:

Appropriate Physical Interaction	Inappropriate Physical Interactions
Side Hugs	Full-frontal hugs
Shoulder-to-shoulder hugs	Kisses
Pats on the shoulder or back	Showing affection in isolated area
Handshakes	Lap sitting
High-fives and hand slapping	Wrestling
Praise	Piggyback/shoulder rides
Pats on the head when culturally appropriate	Tickling
Touching hands, shoulders and arms	Allowing a child to cling to an staff's, facilitator's or volunteer's leg
Arms around shoulders	Any type of massage given by or to a child. Any form of affection that is unwanted by the children or the staff or volunteer
Holding hands (with young children in escorting situations)	Compliments related to physique or body development. Touching bottom, chest, or genital areas

IV. Defining Appropriate and Inappropriate Verbal Interactions

1. Staff, facilitators and volunteers are prohibited from speaking to children in a way that is, or could be construed by any observer, as harsh, coercive, threatening, intimidating, shaming, derogatory, demeaning, harassing or humiliating.

2. Staff, facilitators and volunteers must not initiate sexually oriented conversations with children, parents, staff or vo-

lunteers. Staff, facilitators and volunteers are not permitted to discuss their own sexual activities, intimate details of one's personal life in the presence of children, parents, volunteers, facilitators or staff.

3. The L'Art Rue policies for appropriate and inappropriate verbal interactions are:

Appropriate Verbal Interactions

Inappropriate Verbal Interaction

Positive reinforcement

Name-calling

Appropriate jokes

Inappropriate jokes

Encouragement

Discussing sexual encounters or in any way involving children in the personal problems or issues of staff, facilitators and volunteers

Praise

Secrets

Cursing/profanity

Off-color or sexual jokes

Shaming

Belittling

Harsh language that may frighten, threaten or humiliate children

V. Governing Electronic Communication between Staff and Children

1. For the protection of L'Art Rue children, staff, facilitators and volunteers, any private electronic communication between staff and children, including the use of social networking websites like - Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, instant messaging, texting, etc. - is prohibited except when directed to do so by a supervisor to conduct official business on behalf of the L'Art Rue. Use of personal electronic communication devices to contact (via voice, text, or pictures/video) children

for personal and/or inappropriate reasons shall be grounds for discipline up to and including termination of employment/volunteer experience.

2. All communication between staff, facilitators and children must be transparent. The following are examples of appropriate and inappropriate electronic communication.

Appropriate Electronic Communication	Inappropriate Electronic Communication
<p>Sending and replying to emails and text messages from children ONLY when copying in a supervisor or the child's parent</p>	<p>Harsh, coercive, threatening, intimidating, shaming, derogatory, demeaning or humiliating comments</p>
<p>Communicating with children through "organization group pages" on Facebook or other approved public forums</p>	<p>Sexually oriented conversations Private messages between staff, facilitators and volunteers with children</p>
<p>"Private" profiles for staff, facilitators and volunteers which children cannot access</p>	<p>Posting inappropriate comments on pictures</p>
<p>Posting pictures of organization participants on social media sites, but only when there is a written approval of the guardian</p>	<p>"Friending" participants on social networking sites</p>
	<p>Use of video game communication between staff, facilitators and participant</p>

VI. Child Abuse Reporting Procedures

Every staff member, facilitator and volunteer has a legal and ethical duty to report any reasonable suspicion of child abuse, molestation, neglect, or sexual misconduct to the Délégué de Protection de l'enfance or the police brigade to combat violence against women and children if they feel it is necessary (Délégué général à la protection de l'enfance who will direct you to the nearest delegate, tel: 71798603, 18 rue d'Autriche - Belvédère Tunis, Tunisie)

Suspicion means that it is understandable for a person to entertain such suspicion, drawing when appropriate on his or her training and experience to suspect abuse. The child protective agency will determine the accuracy of the report. Children who need psychological assistance will be referred to the committee of expert psychologists and child psychiatrists accompanying L'Art Rue.

Types of abuse:

Physical - An injury or pattern of injuries that happens to a child that is not accidental. These may include burns, bruises, bites, welts, broken bones, strangulation or even death.

Neglect - Neglect occurs when adults responsible for the well being of a child fail to provide for or protect the child. Neglect may include not giving food, clothing or shelter; failing to keep children clean; lack of supervision; and withholding medical care.

Emotional - Any chronic and persistent act by an adult that endangers the mental health or emotional development of a child, including rejection, ignoring, terrorizing, corrupting, constant criticism, making mean remarks, insulting and giving little or no love, guidance or support.

Sexual - Sexual abuse is the sexual assault or sexual exploitation of children. Sexual abuse may consist of numerous acts over a long period or a single incident. Sexual abuse includes rape, incest, sodomy, fondling, exposing oneself, oral copulation, and penetration of genital or anal openings as well as forcing children to view or appear in pornography. The perpetrator keeps the child from disclosing through intimidation, threats or rewards.

In the event that there is a suspicion of abuse in any form (physical, neglect, emotional, or sexual) of a child at L'Art Rue activities / Dar Bach Hamba and/or schools or any other space of one of our programs, L'Art Rue will take immediate action as follows:

1. If a staff/ facilitator/ volunteer suspects or knows of abuse, they are to immediately report to their supervisor. Suspected abuse can be observed, told or overheard. The staff member should be careful to only listen to the child and not make him/her feel questioned or interrogated. If you feel that

the child is in immediate danger, call the Operations manager. He/she will tell you what to do after the evaluation of the situation.

2. The supervisor and staff member will privately meet with the child. The entire conversation will be documented and signed off by all staff involved. Supervisor reinforces to the staff the importance of confidentiality for the safety of all involved.

3. All reports of suspicious or inappropriate behaviour with children or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously. Our organization will fully cooperate with public authorities if allegations of abuse are made and investigated.

4. The supervisor will contact the programme coordinator to inform them of the concern, at 29212006.

5. Director will need to have the following information prepared prior to call to "Délégué à la protection de l'enfance":

Child's name and date of birth

Parent's name

Does the child live with both parents?

Home address and telephone number

How many total children that live in the home (if accessible)?

Parent's employer (if accessible)

Do we feel the child is in immediate danger?

6. If any staff member, facilitator or volunteer is named in a suspected case, L'Art Rue will suspend their employment and/or volunteer responsibilities immediately during the investigation process.

7. Supervisor will follow-up with staff involved.

8. If a resource is needed for the family affected, contact the programme coordinator at 29212006.

9. If any staff member, facilitator, volunteer or child needs a contact for a confidential consultation for abuse prevention questions or issues, contact Experts.

**Contact numbers:

Programme coordinator: 29 212 006

Operations manager: 29 212 682

Délégué général à la Protection de L'enfance : 71798603, L'Art Rue contact: 29212682

Expert / Psychologue / pédopsychiatre : Zeineb Abbes 20576635 / Emna Kalai 22916630.

Allegations of Abuse and Cooperation with Authorities

All reports of suspicious or inappropriate behaviour with children or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously.

L'Art Rue will fully cooperate with authorities if allegations of abuse are made and investigated.

Investigation Statement

L'Art Rue cooperates fully with the authorities to investigate all cases of alleged abuse. Any staff, facilitator or volunteer shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible in any external investigation by outside authorities or internal investigation conducted by the organization or persons given investigative authority by the organization. Failure to cooperate fully may be grounds for termination of contract.

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