



Child Safeguarding Statement

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. While protecting children from abuse is one part of safeguarding, children and young people also need safeguarding in order for them to grow, develop and achieve their full potential.

1. Introduction

Welcome to the Churchtown School of Music. We are a private music school, offering both individual and group lessons to students of all ages within the community.

It is the policy of the Churchtown School of Music Ltd (CSM) to safeguard the welfare of all the children and young people who attend our school by protecting them from all forms of physical, emotional or sexual harm.

We are committed to providing a positive and enlightened environment, to facilitate the best possible educational outcome for our students. The welfare of the child/young person under our care is paramount.

Everyone working with children and vulnerable adults has a responsibility for their well-being and protection. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults we work with are encouraged and helped in their creative work and that this should take place in a safe and protected environment.

2. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Risk identified		Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Persons targeting the school	We use a buzzer security system alongside a CCTV camera to ensure we have control over who has access to the premises. Our office staff will report suspicious persons to Dundrum Security and an Garda Siochana.
2	Individual lessons with a teacher	All our teaching rooms have windows fitted in their doors to reduce any risk, in line with health and safety regulations.
3	Mixed setting of reception area	The office overlooks the reception/waiting area and is staffed at all times to ensure that both children and vulnerable people are properly supervised.
4	Abuse reported or witnessed on site	In line with Tusla recommendations our staff members are asked to report any witnessed abuse to the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) immediately. Any reports of abuse from children will also be raised with the DLP immediately.
5	Hiring of unsuitable staff	As part of our hiring procedure all staff must successfully complete a Garda Vetting application before beginning their contract with CSM.

3. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children.
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

4. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on the **26th of February 2020** or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

For queries, please contact **Richard Owens**, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.