



MusicConnects

MusicConnects Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service being provided

MusicConnects provides a Music Education and Music outreach service to children and young people.

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

Workshops with children and young adults in both groups and one-on-one settings. Workshops with children and young adults within the school setting in alignment with the Department of Education syllabi.

Our guiding principles

1. Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who takes part in MusicConnects Activity is paramount.
2. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures at least every two years.
3. All children and young people have an equal right to take part in MusicConnects Activities in a way that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
4. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who takes part in a MusicConnects activity, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, to be listened to and heard.
5. Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
6. Workers/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

To Safeguard Children:

MusicConnects is committed to safeguarding children in the following ways:

1. A trained Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person are in place.
2. All staff and relevant contracted workers have undergone Garda Vetting.
3. All staff and relevant contracted workers have successfully completed the Children First E-learning programme provided by TUSLA.
4. In compliance with the Governance Code for charitable organisations, MusicConnects is currently updating its general Health & Safety Policy. Health and Safety Risk Assessments are carried out for all events.
5. For activities in a school setting, class teachers are asked to remain present for the duration of the activity.
6. For activities outside of a school setting, parents are required to remain present for the one-on-one activities. Where parents are unavailable, appropriate procedures are in place. The DLP or the Deputy DLP are on call for all such activities.
7. Where relevant, Parent/emergency contact information is stored on MusicConnects' database in the event of an emergency.

3. Risk Assessment of Activities

MusicConnects has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while participating in a MusicConnects activity. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedure for managing these risks. For activities with other organisations including schools and music schools, MusicConnects liaises with those organisations to agree respective roles and responsibilities in relation to Child Safeguarding.

MusicConnects has identified the following risks	MusicConnects Safety Procedures to address this
Risk of harm not being recognised or not being reported properly and promptly by staff / volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff, contracted workers, and volunteers are required to read and abide by MusicConnects' Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures; - All staff and contracted workers working with children complete the Children First E-Learning programme
Risk of child being harmed by staff / volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children; - Supervision and training provided for staff and volunteers - All staff and relevant volunteers undergo Garda vetting
Risk of child being harmed by third party at activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff and volunteers should make themselves aware of any potential risks, monitor them appropriately, and act accordingly - Guardians advised that children and young people must be signed in and out by the guardian or other named individual listed on the event registration
Risk of harm caused by staff or volunteer communicating with children in an inappropriate manner, or through an inappropriate channel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff and Child Participant Codes of Behaviour in place and communicated to all involved
Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anti-Bullying Policy in place - All staff and volunteers are required to be familiar with 'Let's Beat Bullying'
Inappropriate use of social media and mobile phones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Code of behaviour in place in relation to use of information and communications technology and platforms
Inappropriate use of data/personal information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies in relation to use of personal information in place
Risk of harm due to lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities in relation to Child Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For MusicConnects activities where another partner organisation is involved our Child Protection Policy is shared with partners in advance of projects and MusicConnects receives a copy of Child protection Policies from all partners. Roles, responsibilities and procedures agreed before activities.

4. 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.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going 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 in August 2027, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: 

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For queries, please contact Jackie Teegarden, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.
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