

### Policy Statement

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We make every effort to provide a safe and welcoming environment underpinned by a culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, able to talk and believe that they are being listened to.

We maintain an attitude of “it could happen here” where safeguarding is concerned.

The purpose of this policy is to provide staff and volunteers with the framework they need in order to keep children safe and secure in our school, and to inform parents and guardians how we will safeguard their children whilst they are in our care.

Specific guidance is available to staff within the procedure documents.

### Definitions

Within this document:

**Child protection** is an aspect of safeguarding but is focused on how we respond to children who have been significantly harmed or are at risk of significant harm.

The term **staff** applies to all those working for or on behalf of the school, full time or part time, employed or contracted, in either a paid or voluntary capacity. This also includes parents.

**Child** refers to all young people who have not yet reached their 18 birthday. On the whole, this will apply to pupils attending our classes; however the policy will extend to visiting children and students from other establishments

**Parent** refers to birth parents and other adults in a parenting role for example adoptive parents, step-parents, guardians and foster carers. It also refers to any adult carers accompanying children to their classes.

## Aims

- To provide staff with the framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and in so doing ensure they meet their statutory responsibilities.
- To ensure consistent good practice across the organisation.
- To demonstrate our commitment to protecting children.

**Abuse** could mean neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse or any combination of these. Parents, carers and other people can harm children either by direct acts and / or failure to provide proper care. Explanations of these are given within the procedure document.

### We recognize that:

- Children have a right to feel secure and cannot learn effectively unless they do so.
- All children have a right to be protected from harm, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experience, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- We acknowledge that working in partnership with other agencies protects children and reduces risk and so we will engage in partnership working throughout the child protection process to safeguard children.

### We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Recognising that all staff have a key role in prevention of harm and an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may indicate a child is at risk of harm, either in the music school or in the community, taking into account *contextual safeguarding*, in accordance with the guidance.
- Maintaining a culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, able to talk and believe that they are being listened to
- Following safe recruiting practices, ensuring necessary background checks are made
- Having clear guidelines in place for our staff for listening, recording and reporting disclosures made by children
- Recording and storing information securely (see our data protection policy)
- Using our procedures to deal with any allegations made against staff and volunteers within our organisation

Whilst the music school will work openly with parents as far as possible, it reserves the right to contact Children's Social Care or the police, without notifying parents if this is believed to be in the child's best interests.

## Leadership and Management

We have established clear lines of accountability, training and advice to support the process of child protection and individual staff within that process.

In this school, any individual can contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) if they have concerns about a child or young person.

Contact details:

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

Nadja Flowerdew

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We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: 10/12/2020

Signed:



(Nadja Flowerdew)