

Child Safeguarding

In the following section we will offer guidance on the following:

- Useful Publications in the area
- Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People in the Arts Sector
- Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children
- Tusla: Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice
- Protecting our Children and Young People
- HSE: Our Duty to Care
- Guidelines for taking and using images of children and young people in the arts sector
- Resources for Safeguarding Online Music Tuition Sessions

Sing Ireland knows that many choirs and singing groups will engage with children and young people in their singing activities and so have compiled the following information to give some guidance in the area.

This is particularly relevant of course to children's and young choirs within Sing Ireland's membership. The welfare of young people in state and community organisations has become a priority in recent years. It is recommended that all organisations dealing with children and young people implement a child protection policy and that staff receive training in child welfare matters.

Below are a selection of publications relating to child welfare policy. The best advice is to avail of **Child First Training** supplied by Tulsa, Barnardos or National Youth Council of Ireland. This training works through the various potential issues that can arise when dealing with young people and creating a good environment for staff and young people.

[You can download our Child Protection Policy here.](#)

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Useful Publications

Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People in the Arts Sector, is the Arts Council publication which describes how to write a child protection policy.

Children First

National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children. This updated guide was published in 2011 by the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth affairs. Download the guidelines [HERE](#).

Tusla: Child Safeguarding

A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice: Tusla have published this best practice guide for all providers of services for children and families to develop guiding principles and safeguarding procedures to keep children and young people using their services from harm.

Protecting our Children and Young People

This resource from the National Youth Council of Ireland is aimed at youth clubs, services and organisations that are designing their child protection policy for the first time or reviewing their existing child protection policy.

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Our Duty to Care

This publication contains an introduction to best practice in child welfare and protection and deals with policies and procedures for dealing with child abuse reporting.

Guidelines for taking and using images of children and young people in the arts sector

These guidelines were published by The Arts Council. Contact the Arts Council on 01 618 0200 for hard copies.

Resources for Safeguarding Online Music Tuition Sessions

Singing groups with children online brings with it additional considerations in relation to safeguarding children/young people/vulnerable adults along with the teacher delivering the lesson.

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The below resources are to help inform you of best practices for safeguarding online tuition sessions. It is advised to create an online tuition policy/guideline document as an extension of your existing child protection policy which still applies in these circumstances.

The Irish Association of Youth Orchestras have compiled a comprehensive list of [resources for online music tuition](#) including their own policy documents from their pilot online instrumental tuition programme with Music Generation in 2016

The National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children (UK) have compiled [a comprehensive document for undertaking remote teaching safely](#) which lends opportunity for further reading in many areas of concern surrounding the environment.

For those of you who wish to upskill in the area of online tuition for educators Future Learn have an online course you can participate in here: [How To Teach Online: Providing Continuity for Students](#).

Connect Resound are a UK based company who provide remote online music tuition to music hubs and schools daily. With a wealth of practical experiences [their guidelines in this PDF](#) are extremely useful for policymakers to consider when devising their own online tuition guidelines.

