

Name of service being provided

Music Network's Learning and Participation Programme provides bespoke educational music activities around the country to children, young people and adults, in partnership with local organisations / teachers.

Nature of service and guiding principles to safeguard children from harm

The Learning and Participation Programme offers educational activities related to the Music Network Touring Programme, Music Network Artist Residency and other stand-alone projects, for example:

- Instrumental and vocal workshops
- Composition / improvisation workshops
- Demonstration / question and answer sessions
- Performance opportunities
- Mentor sessions

Activities are generally facilitated by performing musicians during their tour/residency or in advance of/following on from tours/residencies. Activities may also take place as stand-alone events/programmes or in relation to stand-alone performances. Music Network generally works in partnership with a host organisation in order to coordinate activities. The local coordinator liaises on behalf of the participant group (this may be an existing group, or individuals coming together for the Learning and Participation project) as well as attending the activity/arranging an alternate supervisor (if necessary), and documenting the activity.

As defined in the Children First Act, 2015, "harm" means, in relation to a child

- a) assault, ill-treatment, or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development, or welfare, or
- b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions, or circumstances, or otherwise

Music Network believes that the best interests of children and young people participating in all of its events are paramount. We undertake to adopt an inclusive and child-centred approach to all of our activities involving children and young people, regardless of race, ability, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, whereby we protect and promote their rights, including the right to be protected, treated with respect and listened to. These guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation. Our guiding principles are underpinned by *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and current legislation such as the *Children First Act 2015*, *Child Care Act 1991*, *Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998* and the *National Vetting Bureau Act 2012*. See also Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures 2026.

Risk assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Note- this relates to harm as defined in the Children First Act 2015, and is separate to a health and safety risk assessment carried out in relation to activities. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Music Network Child Safeguarding Statement

Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) caused by lack of supervision	Where activities are coordinated by Music Network only: Music Network shall arrange a participant to staff ratio which allows for sufficient supervision. Where activities are coordinated by Music Network in partnership with a host organisation: the host organisation shall arrange the supervision of activities.
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of Music Network staff/facilitator from things they have done (e.g. hurt a child) or failed to do (e.g. not report a concern)	Where activities are coordinated by Music Network, or by Music Network in partnership with a host organisation: Music Network staff are recruited, selected, managed and supervised according to the principles laid out in Sections 5 and 6 of the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures; Music Network staff and facilitators are subject to Garda Vetting where appropriate, and shall follow the Reporting Procedures outlined in Section 3 of the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures; Music Network facilitators shall be provided with a copy of the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures (which includes a Code of Behaviour for facilitators), and sign a Declaration confirming they have read and will adhere to the guidelines therein. Partner organisations shall be supplied with a copy of the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures.
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) by a visitor to the service (workers, parents, placements, etc.)	Where activities are coordinated by Music Network only: Music Network shall arrange a participant to staff ratio which allows for sufficient supervision of children in the presence of visitors. Where activities are coordinated by Music Network in partnership with a host organisation: the host organisation shall arrange the supervision of children in the presence of visitors.
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) by another child	Where activities are coordinated by Music Network only: Music Network shall arrange a participant to staff ratio which allows for sufficient supervision. Where activities are coordinated by Music Network only, or by Music Network in partnership with a host organisation: Music Network's Complaints and Comments procedure and Anti-Bullying principles, outlined in Sections 9 and 10 of Music Network's Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures, shall apply to all involved. Where activities are coordinated by Music Network in partnership with a host organisation: the local coordinator shall arrange the supervision of activities.

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Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) not being reported properly and promptly	Where activities are coordinated by Music Network only: Music Network's Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures specifies procedures for the recording and reporting of concerns, and lists contact details for the Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person, and relevant Tusla representative. Where activities are coordinated by Music Network in partnership with a host organisation: the procedures for recording and reporting concerns when working with a partner organisation outlined in the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures shall apply to all involved.
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) in one-to-one teaching situation	Music Network arranges one-to-one sessions for participants aged over 18 only.
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child on outings by a member of staff/volunteer/stranger/peer	Where activities are coordinated by Music Network only: Music Network arranges shall arrange a participant to staff ratio which allows for sufficient supervision. Where activities are coordinated by Music Network in partnership with a host organisation: the host organisation shall arrange the supervision of activities. Where activities are coordinated by Music Network only, or by Music Network in partnership with a host organisation: Music Network's Complaints and Comments procedure outlined in Section 9 of Music Network's Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures, shall apply to all involved. Music Network staff are recruited, selected, managed and supervised according to the principles laid out in Sections 5 and 6 of the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures; Music Network staff and facilitators are subject to Garda Vetting where appropriate, and shall follow the Reporting Procedures outlined in Section 3 of the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures; Music Network facilitators shall be provided with a copy of the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures (which includes a Code of Behaviour for facilitators), and sign a Declaration confirming they have read and will adhere to the guidelines therein. Partner organisations shall also be supplied with a copy of the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures.
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) through access to ICT / unauthorised photography	Where activities are coordinated by Music Network only, or by Music Network in partnership with a host organisation: the code of practice for the delivery of online learning and participation activities included in the Music Network Child Protection and

(e.g., social media or web access, electronic contact, etc).	Welfare Policy and Procedures (section 2.1) shall apply to all involved. Where activities are coordinated by Music Network only: Music Network shall obtain image consent before taking/using images of children. Where activities are coordinated by Music Network in partnership with a host organisation: the host organisation shall obtain image consent on behalf of Music Network.
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Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures 2026, have been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *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 services:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers by a child availing of our service:**
See the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures, Section 8: Allegations of Misconduct or Abuse by Staff Members.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment of staff:**
See the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures, Section 5: Procedures for Recruiting and Selecting Staff.
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm:**
See the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures, Section 6: Managing and Supervising Staff.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla:**
See the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures, Section 3: Recording & Reporting Procedures and Section 4: Statement of Confidentiality.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons:**
The Designated Liaison Person checks the Schedule of Mandated Persons (Children First Act 2015, Schedule 2) to determine if new employees are one of the classes of person defined as a mandated person and, if necessary, ensures they are added to the list of mandated persons.

- **Procedure for appointing a relevant person:**

The relevant person is the Programmes Co-ordinator. This is currently Claire Austen, whose details are given at the end of this document. In the event that the Programmes Co-ordinator role is vacant, the procedure for appointing is that the Board and CEO propose and nominate an employee as the relevant person. All procedures are detailed in the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures document, which is available at the Music Network offices and on the Music Network website (www.musicnetwork.ie).

- **Procedure for online safety:**

See the Music Network Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures, Section 2.1 - Code of Behaviour for Staff and Children Participating in Online Events.

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 is up to date as of June 2026 and will be reviewed in June 2028, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Pat Moylan'.

Date:

A handwritten date in blue ink that reads '12th June 2026'.

Pat Moylan, Chair
Music Network
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For queries, please contact:

Claire Austen (relevant person), 01 475 0224, programmesadmin@musicnetwork.ie

Last reviewed June 2026