



Child Safeguarding Statement

Services Being Provided

The Fingal Youth Orchestra (FYO) is an orchestra for children aged 8-18 based in Fingal in Dublin.

The range of activities which young people might be involved with FYO includes the following:

- Auditions;
- Workshops (e.g. audition training, chamber music [etc.]);
- Masterclasses;
- Rehearsals;
- Public performances;
- National and international touring;
- Residential courses and activities, including hosting with families;
- Leisure activities (including sports, swimming and social activities);
- Photoshoots, press launches and promotional activities;
- International exchanges;
- Audio and video recording of public recordings, rehearsals and vox pops;
- Writing programme notes, reviews and articles for publication in programmes, newsletters, websites, local and national media;
- Youth advisory groups, young people's forums;
- Communications via the internet and social media platforms;
- Participation in fundraising activities;

Principles of Promoting the Welfare of Young People and Safeguarding them from Harm

FYO is committed to promoting best practice within our organisation and to the protection of the young people with whom we work.

FYO is committed to promoting the rights of the young people including the participation of young people in making decisions on matters that affect them.

FYO is committed to adherence to *Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017) and the Children First Act 2015.

Risk Assessment

FYO has carried out an assessment of any potential of risk of harm to a young people while availing of our services. The areas of risk and the procedures identified to address these areas have been identified in relation to staff, volunteers, other participants and unrelated third parties.

| Risk Identified | Procedure in Place to Manage Identified Risk |
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| Risk of harm not being recognised and / or not being dealt with appropriately. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child welfare policies and procedures implemented and up to date. - Online training in Child Welfare for all staff and volunteers. - Code of conduct for staff and volunteers. - Clearly documented reporting mechanism. - Appointment, training and clear identification of Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person. |
| Insufficient number of adult staff and volunteers present at events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A residential staff ratio for the first eight people of 2 adults. For each extra ten people (or part thereof), one extra adult. |
| Risk of harm from staff and volunteers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procedure for recruitment, Garda vetting and referencing of staff and volunteers. - Supervision, training and support of staff and volunteers. |
| Risk of harm from third parties in accommodation and other facilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff should make themselves aware of potential risks, monitor those risks and act accordingly. |
| Artistic staff unavailable at short notice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep a list of trained and approved tutors. |
| Failure to engage appropriately trained staff and / or volunteers due to fear of child protection legislation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be clear about the level of responsibility required of staff and volunteers and support them and facilitate their training. |
| Bullying | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anti-bullying policy. |
| Critical incident: Assault (fight), sexual assault, serious accident | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff and volunteers are trained appropriately in child welfare and in first aid and first aid staff are identified. |
| Underage sex. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adhere to guidelines on underage sex provided by Tusla. |
| Risk due to alcohol | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff and volunteers on duty never drink. - Clear boundaries for young people. - Code of conduct, sanctions and rules for participants. |
| Risk due to drugs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No drugs other than prescription drugs or over the counter remedies are to be taken or be in the possession of players/staff or volunteers. |
| Inappropriate use of social media and mobile phones | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt policies on communications and use of social media. |
| Inappropriate communication with or communications by inappropriate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt policies on communications and use of social media. |

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| channels between staff, volunteers and participants. | |
| Inappropriate use of data / personal information. | - Adopt policies on communications and use of personal information. |

Policies and Procedures

We have implemented policies and procedures covering:

- The appointment of responsible persons;
- Maintaining a list of mandated persons;
- Recruiting, managing and training staff and volunteers;
- Codes of behaviour for staff, volunteers and young people;
- Dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers;
- Reporting procedures for child protection concerns;
- Bullying;
- Confidentiality;
- Involvement of primary carers;
- Accidents
- Complaints and comments

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 young people safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:

Date: 13.03.23

on behalf of the Board of the Fingal Youth Orchestra

Relevant Person under the Children First Act (2015) CHECK OUT WHAT/WHO RELEVANT PERSON IS

Emer Hilliard, Committee member, 086 4020746 fingalorchestra@gmail.com

Designated Liaison Person

Emer Hilliard, Committee member, 086 4020746 fingalorchestra@gmail.com

Deputy Designated Liaison Person

Emer Ryan, Committee member, 087 2429107 fingalorchestra@gmail.com