

September 2023

Safeguarding policy. This policy is approved and endorsed by the trustees and applies to all trustees, group directors and volunteers. The purpose of this policy is:

- to protect children and young people who attend the Torbay & South Devon Music Centre;
- to provide staff and volunteers with our overarching approach to safeguarding;
- The trustees of the Torbay & South Devon Music Centre endeavour to protect and safeguard children while attending the activities of the Music Centre. We are committed to the protection of children and young people in our charge. All concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, staff and volunteers and responded to appropriately - this may require a referral to children's services and in emergencies, the Police.

Legal framework. This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Charity Commission guidance "Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees" 2019.
- Children England provides "guidance on the safeguarding responsibilities of trustees" 2019
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children, including "Keeping children safe in education" September 2023.

We recognise that:

- No child or group of children must be treated any less favourably than others in being able to access services which meet their particular needs.

- The welfare of each person is paramount. The object of the Trust is the advancement of musical education by the promotion and support of music training and musical events for young people in the area. We promote the wellbeing of children in particular by helping them to enjoy, achieve, and make a positive contribution to the community.
- All members of the Music Centre without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

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

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them. All concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, staff and volunteers and responded to appropriately - this may require a referral to children's services and in emergencies, the Police.
- Adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures
- Safe recruitment, selection and vetting of staff, including CRB/DBS checks.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision and support. The Trust is committed to safe recruitment, selection and vetting of staff, including CRB/DBS checks.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff, and volunteers.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually, or when legislation changes. This policy was last reviewed in September 2023



Registered charity number 1069605

