



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. This Child Safeguarding Statement was approved and adopted by the CBOI’s Board of Directors on 23rd October 2023

Table with 3 columns: Signed, Role, Date. Rows for Jim D’Arcy (Chairperson) and Sharon Treacy-Dunne (CEO. Secretary).

Table with 2 columns: Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy Designated Liaison Persons (DDLP).

1. NAME: The Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland

2. The Nature of our service and principles to safeguard children from harm

The Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland provides music education including group music lessons, and orchestral training and performance opportunities for children and young people.

It is the policy of the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland to safeguard the welfare of all the children and young people who participate in our programmes, by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

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.

This definition is understood as the harm caused to children by physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect. In the context of safeguarding, it may also relate to the bullying of children, child trafficking and or sexual exploitation, or the harm caused to children through the misuse of digital technology or on internet platforms.”



In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to the Children First (2019), and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Directors of the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document

The Board of Directors has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Child Protection Procedures as set out in our Child Protection Policy document.

The Board of Directors recognises that child protection and welfare considerations must be reflected in the CBOI's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the CBOI will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland will:

1. Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of race, ability, ethnicity, or sexual orientation
2. Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
3. Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
4. Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accident happening to children and protect workers from taking unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect
5. Develop a practice of openness with parents /carers and encourage their involvement in CBOI activities
6. Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters
7. The CBOI will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

The Child Protection Policy (CPP) is available to CBOI staff (for the avoidance of doubt all references to staff shall include permanent and freelance staff and volunteers unless otherwise indicated), the CBOI board, and, when requested, primary carers. Courses (rehearsals/concerts) referred to in this policy are rehearsals/concerts and concerts on tour that are run by CBOI and attended by at least one CBOI member of staff.

This statement has been published on the CBOI's website and is readily accessible to parents /carers on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

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.



THE CROSS BORDER ORCHESTRA OF IRELAND

3. WRITTEN RISK ASSESSMENT

Principles of Promoting the Welfare of Children and Safeguarding them from Harm

The CBOI is committed to ensuring that all children will be equally protected from harm regardless of race, ability, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

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

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

The CBOI is committed to adherence to Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to the Children First (2019).

Risk Assessment

The CBOI has carried out an assessment of any potential of risk of harm to a young people while participating in our programmes. 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.

Important Note

It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and outlined above, and not general health and safety risk.

List of Activities

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

- Audio and video recording of rehearsals and performances
- Auditions
- Communications via the internet and social media platforms
- Concert tours in Ireland and internationally including overnight stays
- Group music lessons
- Online teaching
- Photoshoots, press launches and promotional activities
- Public performances
- Rehearsals
- Workshops
- Orchestral rehearsals and tuition



Risk Identified	Procedure in Place to Manage Identified Risk
<i>Risk of harm not being recognised and / or not being dealt with appropriately.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Child welfare policies and procedures implemented and up to date.- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers.- Clearly documented reporting mechanism.- Appointment, and clear identification of Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person.
<i>Insufficient number of adult staff and volunteers present at events</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- When touring in Ireland or abroad, young people aged under 18 are chaperoned by adult volunteers at a ratio of 1:10 (one adult to every ten young people).- All CBOI members and their parents/carers have the mobile phone number of their chaperone who can be contacted at any time before, during or after a project, if there are any concerns.- CBOI rehearsals will have a minimum of four adults supervising. It is the responsibility of these supervisors to ensure that young people are taught in a positive, welcoming, happy and encouraging environment. No abuse of any kind is or ever has been tolerated.
<i>Risk of harm from staff and volunteers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Procedure for recruitment, Garda vetting of staff and volunteers.- The CBOI has put in place a code of Behaviour for staff and Volunteers. This code of behaviour is intended to aid and advise CBOI staff and volunteers in minimising risk and encouraging good practice while at CBOI rehearsals and on tour. Staff and volunteers must always exercise an appropriate level of judgment in each case.
<i>Risk of harm from third parties in accommodation and other facilities.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Staff manage and monitor risks accordingly.
<i>Failure to engage appropriately trained staff and / or volunteers due to fear of child protection legislation.</i>	<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.
<i>Bullying</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anti-bullying policy.- Young people who identify as non-binary, transgender, gender fluid or any other identity will be treated with full and equal respect and support with their safety and comfort central to all decisions.
<i>Critical incident: Assault (fight), sexual assault, serious accident</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Staff and volunteers are trained appropriately in child welfare and first aid staff are identified. MediLink Ambulance service attend all events.
<i>Risk due to alcohol</i>	<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.
<i>Risk due to drugs</i>	<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.
<i>Inappropriate use of social media and mobile phones</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Adhere to our policies on communications and use of social media.



<i>Inappropriate communication with or communications by inappropriate channels between staff, volunteers and participants.</i>	- Adhere to our policies on communications and use of social media.
<i>Inappropriate use of data / personal information.</i>	- Adhere to our policies on communications and use of personal information.

4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *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 service:

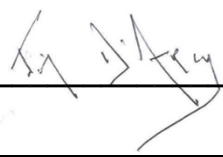
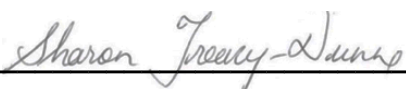
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the CBOI who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

5. Implementation

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Board of Directors of the CBOI has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to a music education and performance environment and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified.

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. CBOI 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 participating in our programmes.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment shall be reviewed annually

Signed:  _____	Chairperson Board of Directors	Date: 23rd October 2023
Signed:  _____	CEO. Secretary Board of Directors.	Date: 23rd October 2023
Jim D’Arcy		
Sharon Treacy-Dunne		

For queries, please contact Sharon Treacy -Dunne, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015. (M 086 8283268 E cboisharon@gmail.com),