

Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of Service Provider: Irish Chamber Orchestra

Programme: 'ICO Schools and ICO Youth'

1: Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

The ICO Schools and Youth programme engages children in high quality musical activities, providing weekly instrumental, vocal and song writing sessions to individuals, small and large-scale groups, including a wide variety of performance opportunities. Sessions are mostly delivered within school time in school, with some after-school activities also provided for.

The ICO Schools and Youth programme is committed to providing a safe emotional and physical space for all its participants. As a 'relevant service provider' we are focused on implementing child safeguarding procedures in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 guidelines and are committed to upholding best practice principals in accordance with these, both within the context of our partnering schools and our after-school activities.

2: Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment for any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	<p>The need to clarify distinct roles and responsibilities for all responsible adults in the room when teaching within the school context.</p> <p>Who is leading the session, which is supporting and how best to support? Defining the class teacher's role in each session- How they lead and support children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To communicate with schools, class teachers and SNA's at the start of each term to ensure roles and responsibilities within each session are clear, shared and understood.• To make sure that ICO School's tutors are aware of both the ICO's and each partnering school's 'Child protection policy', adhering to the safety and practice measures issued by all in accordance with Children First act 2015.

2	Ensuring the safety and whereabouts of children when in transition between school and ICO School's after school activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICO School's staff roll-check children attending for after school activities during the school day. • Check any reasons for potential non-attendance with primary carers and homework club before the end of the day. • Meet children from classrooms and ensure attendance at after-school matches roll taken. • Follow up on children not attending, with primary carers, before they leave the school premises.
3	Ensuring safety of children in the building within after school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each tutor is accountable for a specific group of children, while in ICO School's activities- ensuring that every child in ICO School's is supervised and accounted for at all times until their named adult arrives to collect them.
4	Primary carer awareness of child's whereabouts when taking part in an after school activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICO Schools to gain written consent from a primary carer for child's to attend after school activities. • The carers are to be made aware of start and finish times. • ICO School's to notify the carer if a child has indicated they are will not be attending on a particular day.
5	Children safely travelling home after Choir/Orchestra after school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICO School's to gain contact details of 2 named adults permitted to collect children from ICO School's activities. • The primary carer must notify any change to these persons in advance. • Children who walk home must receive written consent to do this from their primary carer.
6	Performing in public places-picking up and dropping off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a roll call of participating children; to be checked as they arrive and checked as named adults collect them. • Children are to wait in a designated area (performance area) with ICO School's staff until a named adult comes to collect them.

7	One-off performances in public spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written consent obtained from primary carer, with their contact details included. • ICO School's tutors are allocated a specific group of children to be responsible for throughout the day. • In addition children travel and wait in pairs "buddies" within these groups.
8	Teacher child ratios.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with best practice guidelines, ICO School's tutors are to adhere to a teaching ratio of 1:10 in school and 1:8 when travelling. ICO School's organisers are to be mindful of any extra physical, emotional or behavioural needs within the group when considering this ratio in best practice. • Ensure gender balance is also to be considered.
9	Toilet trips in public spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When in public spaces children should not be allowed to visit an adult toilet alone, unless in single occupancy. • An ICO School's adult should accompany groups. Or where appropriate children make visits in pairs. • Where there is a gender imbalance, single occupancy disabled toilet can be found.
10	Events held in non partner-school venues, such as Summer camps and external performances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before booking a new venue an assessment will be made by ICO School's of any potential risk to children in a new environment including. • Whether any other groups or individuals have access to the building. • Who has codes and access to the buildings including maintenance and admin staff etc? • How children can safely move around the building to bathrooms, between sessions and at breaks. • The venue booking should not go ahead if adequate resources cannot be found to ensure that children are appropriately supervised and safeguarded at all times. • In addition ICO School's must be able to monitor daily access the premises.

3: 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, outlined in our Child Protection Policy 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 (if any) in the relevant service who are Designated Liaison Persons and/or mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request within the ICO's Child Protection Policy 2021.

4: Implementation:

We recognise that implementation is an on-going 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 will be reviewed in January 2026, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.



Signed:

(Provider)

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Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

Child Safeguarding Statement Sample Template

Section 1: Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm: Describe the nature of your services and specify the principles that you will observe to keep children safe from harm while they are availing of your service.

Section 2: Risk assessment: *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017) provides additional guidance on carrying out the risk assessment component of your Child Safeguarding Statement.

Section 3: Procedures: As this is only a sample list, you will need to add to this list as appropriate, based on the outcome of your risk assessment. Please see also Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*.

Section 4: Implementation: At a minimum, reviews must be carried out every 24 months. The provider is the individual with overall responsibility for the organisation. This may be the chief executive officer, chairperson of a board of management, owner/operator, etc.

Relevant Person: You should include the name and contact details of the Relevant Persons, who are the first point of contact regarding your Child Safeguarding Statement.