

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY: SWS MUSIC**

1. SWS Music Limited acknowledges it has a responsibility for the safety of children and young people and will work to ensure the highest standard of safety.
2. This policy will apply equally to customers, teachers, visitors and volunteers and anyone connected with SWS Music activities.
3. The welfare of the child/young person is paramount and all children regardless of age, disability, sex, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
4. All claims concerning child abuse will be fully and properly investigated. Suitable procedures will be followed and any claim will be treated in complete confidentiality as much as is appropriate.
5. All staff working with children will undergo a full CRB disclosure check and will be assessed as to their suitability to work with children and young people prior to appointment.
6. SWS Music recognises the importance of appropriate conduct and language from any adult connected with SWS Music including teachers, visitors and volunteers especially in connection with vulnerable children and young people.
7. SWS Music will appoint two persons responsible for child protection and staff will be made aware who to approach in the event of any issue.
8. Documentary written record will be kept of any issue or report related to child protection.

### **Definition of abuse**

Child abuse constitutes any specific action which is likely to cause direct harm to the child including:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Neglect.

### **Physical abuse:**

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, intentionally pushing or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

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### **Emotional abuse:**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or inadequate, 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another.

### **Sexual abuse:**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

### **Neglect:**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It can include failure to:

- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- Ensure adequate supervision
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Some actions may not be the result of intended abuse but could be seen as causing injury or offence such as physical harm as a result of the failure to follow health and safety practices or a comment perceived as offensive or inappropriate. In such cases, it is important to assess the degree of intent on the part of the perceived abuser and whether such actions could be qualified as negligence intentional or otherwise or misunderstanding in communication between a child and an adult.

### **Code of practice**

1. All staff, volunteers and visitors must respect children welfare and needs at all times.
2. Inappropriate or unwanted physical contact must be avoided when dealing with children at all times.

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3. Any reference to sexually related subjects, any sexual contact or behaviour must be avoided at all times.
4. If a child requests going to the toilet, the parent or carer present must be notified and instructed to take the child if required. Staff must stay outside the toilet at all times
5. Teachers must report any incident by contacting the director, Mr. Jean Izbell.