



# Music Generation Laois/Laoise

## Music Generation Laois Child Safeguarding Statement

Music Generation Laois (MGL) provides access to high quality performance music education to children and young people in their own area, and is funded nationally by Music Generation – Ireland’s national music education programme - initiated by Music Network and co-funded nationally by U2, The Ireland Funds and the Department of Education and Skills and locally Music Generation Laois is funded by Laois Offaly ETB (lead partner) and Laois County Council.

In accordance with the requirements of the *Children First Act 2015*, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017*, the *Child Protection Procedures* for Music Generation Laois and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of our Child Safeguarding Statement, Laois Offaly ETB has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. Music Generation Laois will implement fully and without modification the National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Child Safeguarding Statement and the *Children First Act 2015*
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Rosa Flannery, Music Development Officer, Music Generation Laois (057) 8681782. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Jason Ritchie, Co-ordinator, Laois School of Music (057) 8681782.
3. Music Generation Laois recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of our programmes and must be reflected in all of the programmes’ policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the programme will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

### **Music Generation Laois will:**

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children and young people is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the *Children First Act 2015* and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and all involved in our delivery settings
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

### **Risk Assessment**

Music Generation Laois has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. The majority of our programmes are delivered in Laois Music Centre, schools and youth work settings while a smaller number are delivered in non-school settings and partner venues.

**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	Risk of harm not being recognised by MGL personnel	All staff as mandated or relevant persons are provided with a copy of the centre's Child Safeguarding Statement. All staff receive child protection training.
2	Risk of harm not being reported promptly and properly by delivery centre or MGL personnel	The DCYA/TUSLA <i>Children First Guidelines</i> are made available to all MGL personnel. MGL has a code of conduct for staff.
3	Risk of child being harmed by a member of MGL personnel	MGL personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> .
4	Risk of child being harmed or bullied by another child	When delivering programmes in schools we implement the schools own Anti-Bullying Policy. In a non-school context our tutors act in a timely manner to prevent harm in accordance with our Music Generation Laois Child Protection Policy
5	Risk of child being harmed by a visitor while taking part in our programme	MGL adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation. All programmes taking place outside school settings are supervised by an MGL staff member who monitors entry to the venue.
6	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of the child while in the venue/class.	Implement the Laois Offaly ETB has a Health and Safety policy. MGL has over-seer personnel in place for all group activities in non- school settings. In schools we require that a Teacher is always present.
7	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of the child while engaging in out of venue activities	All activities taking place outside a venue or school will be properly supervised by vetted staff who operate under the <i>Children First Guidelines (2017)</i> .
8	Risk of harm due to inappropriate communication/relationship between a child and another child or adult while participating in the programme	MGL adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. All staff adhere to the MGL Code of Behaviour All staff receive child protection training.
9	Risk of harm to children inappropriately using, accessing or disseminating by computer, social media, telephones or other devices while participating in the programme	While working in schools MGL operate under the School setting's procedures on Acceptable Use. Students only have supervised access to media devices.
10	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	Schools have in place policies for children with SEN and intimate care needs. The needs of a particular group or child are considered when assigning a tutor in a non-school setting.
11	Risk of harm in teaching or mentoring settings.	MGL adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. MGL Code of Behaviour and Good Practice Guidelines are applicable in each setting where we deliver our programmes.

12	Risk of harm caused by a member of personnel not having adequate information on child safeguarding	<p>Music Generation Laois:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has provided each member of staff with a copy of our Child Safeguarding Statement.</li> <li>• Ensures all new staff are will be provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement.</li> <li>• Ensures staff avail of relevant child protection training.</li> <li>• Maintains records of all staff training.</li> <li>• MGL adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation.</li> </ul>
13	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of language in the presence of a child	MGL operates a Code of Behaviour and a Child Protection Policy.
14	Risk of harm in the delivery of incidental workshops by outside personnel	When incidental workshops are delivered by outside personnel who may not be vetted, Music Generation Laois ensures that another vetted adult is present in such circumstances.

## Policies and 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 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; all tutors will be briefed on our child safeguarding policy and will complete the Tusla online training and shall be required to present the Certificate of completion to the Manager of Music Generation Laois.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to the DLP or Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

## Implementation

Music Generation Laois recognises 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 services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in January 2021 and yearly thereafter, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.