National Youth Orchestra of Ireland
Ceolfhoireann Náisiúnta Óige na hÉireann

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

SERVICES BEING PROVIDED

While the company is registered as the Irish Youth Orchestra CLG. in everyday use the organisation is called the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland (NYOI). Our mission is to provide exceptional educational and performance opportunities for young musicians from across the island of Ireland in the full symphonic repertoire to support their development to the greatest extent of their talents.

The range of activities which young people might be involved in with NYOI includes but is not limited to the following:

- Auditions
- Workshops (e.g. Audition training, chamber music, online etc.)
- Masterclasses (in person and online)
- Rehearsals and Open rehearsals
- Chamber music rehearsals and concerts
- Public performances
- National and international touring
- Residential courses and activities
- Leisure activities (sports, swimming, social activities)
- Photoshoots, press launches and promotional activities
- International exchanges
- Audio and video recordings of public recordings, rehearsals and vox pops • Writing programme notes, reviews and articles for publication in programmes, newsletters, websites, local and national media
- Youth advisory groups (The Players' Council)
- Communication via the internet and social media platforms
- Participation in fundraising activities
- Conductor workshops
- Composer workshops
- Peer to peer mentoring initiatives

PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

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

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

NYOI is committed to adherence to the *Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017) and the Children First Act 2015.

RISK ASSESSMENT

NYOI has carried out an assessment of any potential of risk or harm to a young person while availing of our services. 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.

RISK IDENTIFIED	PROCEDURE IN PLACE TO MANGAGE
Risk of harm not being recognised and / or not being dealt with appropriately.	● Child welfare policies and procedures implemented and up to date. ● Online training in child safeguarding for all staff and volunteers. ● Code of conduct for staff and volunteers. ● Clearly documented reporting mechanism. ● Appointment, training and clear identification of Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person.
Insufficient number of adult staff and volunteers present at events	● A residential staff ratio for the first eight people of 2 adults. For each extra ten young people (or part thereof), one extra adult.
Risk of harm from staff and volunteers	● Procedure for recruitment, Garda vetting and referencing of staff and volunteers. ● Supervision, training and support of staff and volunteers.

Risk of harm from third parties in accommodation and other facilities.	● This should be accounted for in a risk assessment and staff should manage and monitor risks accordingly.
Artistic staff unavailable at short notice	● Keep a list of trained and approved tutors.
Failure to engage appropriately trained staff and / or volunteers due to fear of child protection legislation.	● Be clear about the level of responsibility required of staff and volunteers and support them and facilitate their training.
Bullying	● Dignity & Respect at Work policy.
Critical incident: Assault (fight), sexual assault, serious accident	● Staff and volunteers are trained appropriately in child welfare and in first aid and first aid staff are identified.
Underage sex.	● Adhere to guidelines on underage sex provided by Tusla.
Risk due to alcohol	● Staff and volunteers on duty never drink. ● Clear boundaries for young people. ● Code of conduct, sanctions and rules for participants.
Risk due to drugs	● 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.
Inappropriate use of social media and mobile phones	● Adhere to our policies on communications and use of social media.
Inappropriate communication with or communications by inappropriate channels between staff, volunteers and participants.	● Adhere to our policies on communications and use of social media.
Inappropriate use of data / personal information.	● Adhere to our policies on communications and use of personal information.

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:

NYOI have implemented policies and procedures.

- Codes of behaviour
- Confidentiality
- Involvement of primary carers
- Complaints and comments
- Incidents and accidents
- Recruitment, selection, and management of staff
- Child abuse
- Abuse allegations and reporting procedures

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 September 2026, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

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Tom Boland (Chairperson) on behalf of the Board of the NYOI.

Approved by the Board of NYOI on 1/10/2026

RELEVANT PERSON UNDER THE CHILDREN FIRST ACT (2015)

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DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

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