

Child Safeguarding Statement New Ross Piano Festival

1. Name of service being provided:

New Ross Piano Festival

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

New Ross Piano Festival facilitates a five day celebration of music, centred around piano music and as such engages adult musicians for the majority of its annual programme. However, a number of activities are run in conjunction with local schools, music schools and the local library to involve children and provide opportunities for them to learn about composers and the piano as an instrument. All of these are supported by teachers and /or parents and as such the committee and /or volunteers of the festival are never with unsupervised students. The festival opens with a concert for Young Musicians from around the South East who attend with their parents and/or music teachers and are never left solely in the care of festival personnel. Parental consent is essential for participation in this event.

Notwithstanding the above general context, the New Ross Piano Festival Committee is committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children and young people. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child/ young person is paramount. We will fully implement the recommendations of *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, published by the Department of Health and Children.

The New Ross Piano Festival Committee has a commitment to:

- providing a safe environment for any children and young people with whom it interacts;
- an undertaking to apply that policy throughout its Festival;
- detailed procedures and steps to ensure that the Child Safeguarding Statement is implemented across all areas of the work of the Festival.
- Personnel involved in specific child related events will be garda vetted

The Child Safeguarding Statement is devised to inform festival artists, committee, volunteers, parents/guardians and audience and is available to all concerned and can be accessed online on our website www.newrosspianofestival.com. Copies will also be displayed at venues. The policy is reviewed every two years before the festival.. A separate Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers has been drawn up.

3. Risk Assessment

Child Abuse can be categorised under the following headings:

Physical, Emotional, Sexual Abuse , Neglect and Bullying. Information on recognising signs of abuse can be sourced at www.tusla.ie (Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy , Procedure and Practice 3.1.1)

Some children may be more vulnerable to harm. For further information see Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy , Procedure and Practice 3.1.3

Reasonable grounds for a child protection or welfare concern include:

- Evidence, for example an injury or behaviour, that is consistent with abuse and is unlikely to have been caused in any other way
- Any concern about possible sexual abuse
- Consistent signs that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect
- A child saying or indicating by other means that he or she has been abused
- Admission or indication by an adult or a child of an alleged abuse they committed

- An account from a person who saw the child being abused Guidance for mandated persons on the thresholds a

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. 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	Harm suffered by a child/young person through inappropriate behaviour/language by another person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All NRPF committee and volunteers will be aware of the Child Protection protocol i.e. to inform the DLP of all incidents • Teachers/guardians will be made aware of the Child Safeguarding Statement. Attention will be drawn to the appropriate procedures for reporting of incidents available on the festival website. • Personnel will be vigilant to ensure that children/young persons are never left alone with an adult
2	Harm caused by the unauthorised exposure online of the child/young person through photography/ video	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent will be sought from parents/guardians for official media photographs • An announcement will be made prior to performances that photography /videoing is prohibited Families will be given an opportunity to take photographs after the performance .
3	Harm resulting from peer/adult bullying during the festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate supervision will be in place to pre-empt and monitor any possible inappropriate interaction.

4. Procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse

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:

If the member of the organisation thinks a child is at risk of harm he/she will report to the DLP or DDLP.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for New Ross Piano Festival is:
Ms. Margaret Rossiter Tel: 0872349724

The Deputy DLP is Elma Sutton Tel: 0860550712

A factual account of the allegation is given and recorded. Ref: Children First Chapter 2 p.13. The record is kept by the DLP in a secure location. The DLP will contact Tusla for advice and direction.

Duty Care Social Worker, Child and Family Agency, Ely House, Ferrybank, Wexford, 053-9198201.

Out of hours contact New Ross Garda Station, 051426030

Parents/ Guardians will be informed of the allegation unless it would expose the child to further harm.

Further guidance on how to deal with an allegation of abuse is to be found in Chapter 3 of the Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017

A child who discloses that they have been abused will be listened to without leading questions. It will be explained that it is the organisation's duty to report it to the statutory agencies to support the child

4.1 Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla:

All disclosures or incidents will be reported to the DLP who will contact Túsła for advice and follow the reporting procedures

4.2 Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child participating in NRPF

In the event of an allegation being made against a staff member (paid or voluntary), the New Ross Piano Festival Committee's first priority is the protection and safety of the child. The procedures described in 4.1 will be followed.

An allegation of abuse being made will be dealt with sensitively, and with discretion by the DLP (or DDLP in his/ her absence).

If, however, the allegations are made against either the Designated Liaison Person or the Deputy Designated Liaison Person then the Chairperson will deal with the matter.

All allegations will be treated in the strictest confidence at all times.

The DLP will inform the employee/volunteer of the following :

1. An allegation has been made against him/her

2. The nature of the allegation
3. Whether or not the allegation has been reported to Túsla by the DLP or DDLP
4. NRPF does not have an investigative role once the allegation has been reported to Tusla.
5. Pending investigation by Tusla, the person against whom the allegation is made ,will have no further contact with children at the festival.

4.3 Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children:

Committee members/ volunteers are rostered during the festival and have clear tasks to do . All involved in events for children/young people will be aware of the CSS and act accordingly.

Personnel involved in specific child related events will be garda vetted and will avail of Tusla online training in Child Safeguarding.

4.4 Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm

All volunteers working with children will be familiar with the NRPF Child Safeguarding Statement before the festival . This will be a public document available online on our website and in hard copy form in the venues.

Personnel volunteering at child related events will avail of the Tusla e-learning module Introduction to Children First and a record of training will be kept by the DLP.

4.5 Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who have reporting responsibilities

The names of the DLP and DDLP will be clearly posted at the venues.

Both the DLP and DDLP have been ratified by the NRPF committee as part of the Child Safeguarding Review

4.6 Complaints Procedure

Any complaint may be submitted in writing to Mr. John Kissane, Chairperson NRPF Committee via info@newrosspianofestival.com for the attention of the festival committee.

5.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 2026, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____
(Chairperson New Ross Piano Festival)

Reviewed and ratified on 9th July 2024

Child Safeguarding Statement

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)
Ms Margaret Rossiter

Deputy Designated Liaison Person
(DDLDP) Ms Elma Sutton

Contact details

Duty Care Social Worker,
Child & Family Agency, Ely House
Ferrybank, Wexford

053 9198201

Out of hours contact New Ross
Garda Station

051 426030

In an emergency call 999/112.