

BELFAST MUSIC SOCIETY

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

1. The Belfast Music Society's objects are to promote, by charitable means only, the knowledge and appreciation of chamber music through the organisation and presentation of recitals and any other appropriate musical events that the Board of Management may determine.
2. The Belfast Music Society's promotions include, but are not limited to, the International Festival of Chamber Music, masterclasses, workshops, and individual recitals. Any of these promotions may involve the participation of children under the age of 18.
3. The Belfast Music Society is committed to providing a safe environment for children at any promotion that they attend or in which they participate, and acknowledges that the welfare of each child is paramount. All members of the Board of Management are aware of the Society's Child Protection Policy and endorse it.
4. The Belfast Music Society's Child Protection Policy applies to children under the age of 18 who attend or participate in any of the Society's promotions, or who act as volunteer helpers in any of its administrative functions. The policy also applies to all members of the Board of Management, volunteers, and any artists and tutors engaged by the Society to participate in any of its events involving children.
5. The Belfast Music Society believes that all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.
6. Children performing in Belfast Music Society events, and their parents, will be advised of the Society's Child Protection Policy, and the Policy will be made available to them in advance. Parents of participating children will be required to be in attendance at the events in question, or to satisfy themselves that their children will be supervised at the events by other responsible adults acting on their behalf.
7. Children attending events as members of the audience should be supervised by their parents or other responsible adults. Any schools involved in Belfast Music Society promotions will be sent a copy of the Child Protection Policy.
8. The use of photography or digital recording at Belfast Music Society events involving children is strictly prohibited. Occasionally the Press will be invited to take photographs at Belfast Music Society events; if parents do not wish their children to be photographed, they or the accompanying adult should make this known to the Belfast Music Society personnel at the event.

9. Belfast Music Society personnel will be identified by a badge at all events involving children, and will be in attendance in the performance space. Parents' attention is drawn to the fact that practice areas and toilets are not supervised by Belfast Music Society personnel.
10. Concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by Board members, staff and volunteers, and responded to appropriately; this may require a referral to children's services and in emergencies, the Police.
11. This Policy is supported by the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003; The Protection of Children Act, the Court Services Act 2000; The Care Standard Act 2000.
12. The Belfast Music Society undertakes to review this Policy against current guidelines and best practice every 5 years.

Designated Person for Child Protection Policy:

Nuala Shaw