



Child Safeguarding Statement

The Historical Harp Society of Ireland, 33 Altamount Park, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny R95R7DE

Governing Body: Seán Donnelly, Chair; Ashling Slater, Secretary; Jane Carter (UK).

Executive: Siobhán Armstrong, Founding Director

NAME AND NATURE OF SERVICE

The Historical Harp Society of Ireland (HHSI) is Ireland's voluntary resource organisation for the promotion of the early Irish harp. The Society provides one-to-one harp tuition (face-to-face and virtual), workshops, concerts, lectures and an annual summer festival of events including most of these activities.

PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

In accordance with the requirements of 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* on the preparation of child safeguarding statements, the Governing Body of The Historical Harp Society of Ireland has developed, and agreed, the principles set out in this document.

The HHSI Governing Body recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate some aspects of The Historical Harp Society of Ireland's activities, and that they therefore continue to be reflected in its policies, procedures and practices. The Historical Harp Society of Ireland will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The HHSI will

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children 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 coming 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 / guardians and will fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

N.B. The HHSI will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult participant in its activities, who has a special vulnerability.

The HHSI is committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child is paramount. We have implemented procedures covering:

- Code of Behaviour for all HHSI personnel
- Reporting of suspected or disclosed abuse

- Confidentiality
- Recruitment and selecting HHSI personnel
- Managing and supervising HHSI personnel
- Allegations of misconduct or abuse by HHSI personnel
- Complaints and comments
- Incidents and accidents

These are articulated in our Child Protection and Procedures Policy, a copy of which will be furnished on request.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Children are sometimes involved in the following HHSI activities:

- beginners’ workshops at HHSI Discovery Days and at the HHSI annual summer festival: Scoil na gCláirseach–Festival of Early Irish Harp
- group tuition and workshops at the HHSI annual summer festival: Scoil na gCláirseach–Festival of Early Irish Harp
- one-to-one harp tuition at the HHSI annual summer festival: Scoil na gCláirseach–Festival of Early Irish Harp
- HHSI concert and talks attendance

The HHSI has carried out an assessment of any potential harm to a child availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified together with a list of procedures for managing these. It should be noted that ‘risk’ in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of ‘harm’ as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not ‘risk’ in a general health and safety context.

RISK	RISK MANAGEMENT
<p>Risk of child being harmed by HHSI personnel member.</p> <p>Risk of harm to a child due to inappropriate relationship / communication between a child and an HHSI personnel member.</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with special educational needs, who have increased vulnerability.</p> <p>Risk of harm caused by an HHSI personnel member communicating with a child in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device et al.</p> <p>Risk of harm caused by an HHSI personnel member circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or in any other manner.</p>	<p>The HHSI Governing Body provides each HHSI executive member with a copy of the HHSI Child Safeguarding Statement and the HHSI Child Protection Policy and will provide any additional HHSI personnel with each of these documents, when they begin to be involved in HHSI activity.</p> <p>HHSI personnel are required to sign a Declaration Form stating their suitability to work with children.</p> <p>The HHSI adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016.</p>
<p>Risk of harm or potential harm to a child not being recognised by HHSI personnel.</p> <p>Risk of harm or potential harm to a child not being reported correctly and promptly by HHSI personnel.</p>	<p>The HHSI Governing Body requires each member of the HHSI executive to complete relevant training in the area of child safeguarding e.g. Tusla’s <i>Introduction to Children First</i> E-learning programme and to provide the Governing Body with the appropriate certification document.</p> <p>The HHSI Governing Body provides each HHSI</p>

	<p>executive member with a copy of the HHSI Child Safeguarding Statement and the HHSI Child Protection and Procedure Policy and will provide any additional HHSI personnel with each of these documents, when they begin to be involved in HHSI activity.</p> <p>The HHSI Governing Body requires the HHSI executive director to ensure that each new HHSI personnel member employed is provided with – and signs – a copy of the HHSI Child Safeguarding Statement and that they undergo appropriate child safeguarding training.</p> <p>In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, HHSI personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Children First Act 2015.</p>
<p>Risk of child being harmed during HHSI activities by another child.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor at an HHSI activity.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult at an HHSI activity.</p>	<p>The HHSI is conscious of the need for adequate supervision of children at HHSI activities and events and provides for this.</p>
<p>The use of video, photography or other media to record HHSI events</p>	<p>No images of children are used in publicly accessible HHSI virtual or printed material without the express, written permission of a parent or guardian.</p>

In undertaking this risk assessment, the HHSI Governing Body has endeavoured to identify as far as possible all risks of harm that are relevant to HHSI activities, and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, The HHSI has put in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment and risk management in order to reduce that risk to the greatest possible extent. This risk assessment was completed in December 2019. It will be reviewed as part of the HHSI’s annual review of its child protection policy or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of any of our services:

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of tutors and their suitability to work with children, The HHSI adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training to the HHSI executive in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the HHSI Governing Body:
 - has provided each HHSI personnel member with a copy of the HHSI Child Safeguarding Statement and the HHSI Child Protection Policy and requires that they sign the latter.
 - The HHSI Governing Body requires each member of the HHSI executive to complete relevant training in the area of child safeguarding e.g. Tusla’s *Introduction to Children First* E-learning programme and to provide the Governing Body with the appropriate certification document

➤ requires the HHSI director to ensure that each new HHSI personnel member employed, is provided with a copy of the HHSI Child Safeguarding Statement and signs the attached Declaration Form

- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, HHSI personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Children First Act 2015.

The various procedures referred to in this Statement will be made available on request. For more information on HHSI Child Protection Policy inc.

- in respect of any staff member who is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of the relevant service
- the selection or recruitment of any person as a member of staff with regard to that person's suitability to work with children
- the provision of information, instruction and training, to members of staff in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm
- reporting to TUSLA by the HHSI or an HHSI staff member in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 or associated guidelines

please see The HHSI Child Protection Policy, which will be gladly supplied on request.

HHSI Complaints and Reporting Procedure

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for child safe-guarding concerns or any complaints is **Siobhán Armstrong**

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is **Ashling Slater**

Children or parents/guardians are free to make complaints to whichever of these two people they feel most comfortable approaching.

The HHSI Governing Body has appointed the above named DLP as the 'relevant person' as defined in the Children First Act 2015, to be the first point of contact in respect of any complaints and with regard to any aspect of this HHSI Child safeguarding Statement



Seán Donnelly
Chair, HHSI Governing Body

12.03.21