

Music and Movement (Charity Registration Number: 1073065)

Safeguarding Children Policy for Music and Movement

Music and Movement is a registered charity which runs group sessions for pre-school children, introducing them to the enjoyment of music, rhythm and dance.

The group is made up of children, parents/carers and group leaders who meet during term time on a weekly basis. Currently two (2) classes are held on Friday mornings at the hired site of Trinity Methodist Church, Hexham.

Safeguarding children duties apply to any charity working with, or coming into contact with, anyone under the age of 18. Safeguarding is a term which is broader than 'child protection' and relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

This safeguarding policy is based upon the children always being supervised by their own parent/carer during the sessions.

Requirements

Music and Movement recognises that it is necessary to have:

- a child protection/safeguarding policy and procedures for dealing with issues of concern or abuse; and
- a member of the group who has basic child protection training. The current child protection officers are: **Julie Finch (Tel: 01434 607490) and Evi Horrocks (Tel: 07732 432553)**

Child Protection Policy Principles

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.
- This policy will be reviewed, approved and endorsed by the board of trustees annually or when legislation changes.
- This policy applies to all trustees, group leaders and volunteers.
- Parents and carers are informed of the policy and procedures as appropriate.
- All concerns and allegations of abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Music and Movement is committed to safe recruitment, selection and vetting of any new group leaders who will have direct contact with children.
- Permanent group leaders must have up to date enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance (Child Workforce Category).
- Music and Movement will provide a safe physical environment for all members of the group (children, parents/carers, group leaders and volunteers) by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

Procedures and systems

Procedures and systems provide guidance for trustees and group leaders on what to do in different circumstances and they clarify roles and responsibilities.

- If anyone raises concerns regarding child safety or child protection they should share these with one of the child protection officers named above.
- Confidentiality should be observed at all times.
- All trustees and group leaders should be made fully aware of the safeguarding children policy and procedures pertaining to Music and Movement.
- All trustees and group leaders will receive a copy of this policy.
- All trustees, group leaders, volunteers, parents and carers should be made aware of Music and Movement's risk assessment as well as the GDPR/ Privacy Policy.
- The Chair of Trustees and Steering Committee and group leaders should ensure that Music and Movement has adequate insurance cover.

Procedures to be followed if a parent/carer is concerned that a child may be in danger

If you have any concerns regarding the safety or wellbeing of a child then contact the above-named child protection officers immediately. Unless that child is in **immediate danger or left alone**, in which case you should contact the police or call an ambulance on 999

Alternatively, you can call:

24/7 OneCall Northumberland County Council. Tel: 01670 536400

Northumbria Police: call 101 and request Safeguarding Department or alternatively use the [online reporting form](#) (the 101 form)

There are helplines available too:

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Childline: 0800 11 11

Samaritans: 116 123 (national) or 0191 2327272 (local)

All Music and Movement trustees and group leaders have read and endorse this policy.

Date: 4th October 2022

This policy has been reviewed and updated in accordance with the following Charity Commission Guidance: Safeguarding and Protecting People for Charities and Trustees (published 6 December 2017, last updated 1st June 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees>

Appendix

Child abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Specific categories of abuse of children and young people are set out in the Statutory Guidance - Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018:

Physical abuse is a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);

- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

(First published 26 March 2015, updated 21 February 2019)