Child Safeguarding Statement

Rathfarnham Concert Band Society (RCBS)

1. About Rathfarnham Concert Band

Rathfarnham Concert Band Society aims to develop a love and appreciation of music in its members through the teaching and playing of music. RCBS comprises four concert bands: Junior, Intermediate, Jazz, and Senior bands, as well as a group of beginners awaiting places in the Junior band. These players form the Tyro band for the second half of the year. RCBS currently uses Ballyroan BNS, Ballyroan Road (and occasionally St. Mary's BNS, Grange Road) for practice and lessons on weekday evenings and at weekends. Apart from the regular sessions, RCBS may schedule additional rehearsals in advance of major performances. RCBS performs at many venues and events both throughout the country of Ireland, and occasionally abroad. This Child Safeguarding Statement applies to wherever RCBS operates.

2. RCBS musical training is provided at various levels:

- Instrument lessons, where one teacher may instruct from one to three children at a time
- Theory lessons, where one teacher may instruct a group from one to fifteen children
- Sectional Practice, where a conductor takes a group of approximately twenty children
- Full Band Practice, where the entire band is massed for practice. This may be up to, but limited to ninety members, some of which are adults, and the rest are children (under 18 years of age)

Band and sectional rehearsals usually take place on Sunday mornings. Music lessons and band/sectional rehearsals usually take place on Monday evenings

A large staff is involved in the weekly schedule of the bands. This consists of conductors, teachers of instruments, and teachers of music theory. Adult volunteers are also involved in band activities. The volunteers are parents of current members, and sometimes parents of former members. These volunteers are engaged in the supervision of children. Band Officers also help with the supervision of children. The Band Officers have a high level of involvement with their respective band and look after their specific needs including setting up of rosters for duties, uniforms, supervision, and organising trips and concerts.

Other parents are involved in many ways, including fund raising, sponsorship, concert organisation, supervision of music theory exams, supervision of children during free periods, helping out with trips and outings.

The children and young people who are members of RCBS range in age from 10 years old to 18+ years old. As members join the band, information regarding any health issues is requested. In this way, RCBS can establish if any young person has individual care needs.

RCBS is fully committed to the protection of the welfare of children. RCBS is fully committed to safeguarding children who are engaged in RCBS activities. The society aims to provide a safe environment in which young people can develop into mature adults, educated for leisure, and with committed community interests through the teaching and playing of music. Our goals include: to develop a love and appreciation of music in the players, to enable each player to reach a proficiency and standard affiliated to appropriate music associations, to use musical proficiency of the bands to further community harmony and development, by performing at community events, festivals, competitions.

RCBS is committed to protecting and promoting the rights of children and young people in RCBS, including their right to be protected, treated with respect, listened to, and to have their own views taken into consideration in all decisions affecting them. RCBS seeks to ensure that no child or young person is disadvantaged or treated differently because of gender, social or ethnic background, family status, sexual orientation, religion or disability.

RCBS intends to comply with national policy, current legislation and guidance. RCBS commits to reviewing the Child Safeguarding Statement and relevant procedures at least every two years, or sooner as legislation changes.

3. Risk Assessment

	Risk Identified	Procedure in Place to Manage Risk Identified
1.	Risk of inappropriate persons accessing children	Responsibility of Band Officers to ensure the welfare of band members. Proper supervision of children engaged in RCBS activities, performances, rehearsals. NVB vetting of supervisors, teachers, volunteers, committee members, conductors. Child protection training of supervisors, teachers, conductors, volunteers, committee members.
2.	Risk of no access of personnel to appropriate training	All conductors, teachers, committee members and volunteers to be trained using Tusla E learning course and certs to be sent to Child Protection Officer on completion of the training course.
3.	Risk of staff, volunteers being unaware of reporting procedures	Each teacher, conductor, volunteer to be given a copy of the reporting procedure, and to sign the procedure to acknowledge that he/she has read and understood the procedure. Each person should have the procedure to hand at all times. A copy of the reporting procedure to be available in the storage room. Each teacher, conductor, volunteer to be made aware of the identity and contact details of the DLP, and Deputy DLP. A copy of this to be available in the storage room. Child Protection policy to be available on RCBS website.

4.	Risk of children and staff being unaware of the Code of Behaviour which includes an Anti-Bullying policy.	All members of RCBS will be given a copy of the Code of Behaviour. All conductors, teachers, and volunteers will be given a copy of the Code of Behaviour. A copy of this to be available in the storage room. The Code of Behaviour will be available on RCBS website.

4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidelines, 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:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures are available upon request.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing 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 March 2026 and biannually subsequently, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:_____

Chairperson of RCBS: Ciaran Ahern

Name and address of Chairperson: Ciaran Ahern

c/o Ballyroan B.N.S.

Ballyroan Road,

Rathfarnham,

Dublin 16.

For queries, contact Mary O'Flaherty.

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Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

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