



Internet Teaching Child Protection Policy

It is the policy of the Churchtown School of Music to safeguard the welfare of all the children and young people who are taught music and take part in our activities. CSM is committed to providing a positive and enlightened environment, to facilitate the best possible educational outcome for participants. The welfare of the children and young people under our care is paramount.

This policy extends the Child Protection Policy of the Churchtown School of Music which is available from www.churchtownschoolofmusic.com or in hard-copy from the CSM office.

Teaching of Instruments via the Internet

In facilitating access to music lessons during this time, Churchtown School of Music extends the opportunity to study with your teachers via the internet using videotelephony using Skype, Google Hangouts, Whatsapp or other similar services. In providing these opportunities, we commit to adhering to the following best practices in the interest of safeguarding both students and teachers.

Child Protection Concerns Related to Internet Teaching

Teaching students over the internet raises the following concerns in relation to child protection:

- The situation introduces the student to the idea of communicating with an adult that is not part of their family group over the internet. This is not a practice that should come to be considered normal by the student and it should be emphasised by parents that communicating in this manner is something that requires permission and supervision;
- This method of teaching invites the teacher into the student's home, and vice versa, without being physically present and, therefore, possibly unknown to other members of either household. There should be an awareness on behalf of all involved that there is someone virtually present in their home and that everyone's actions need to be reflected in this. Insofar as is possible, the teaching situation should closely reflect that of teaching in a music school;

Churchtown School of Music teachers undertake as part of our Child Protection Policy to report any concerns over child welfare to Rebecca Maybin, who is the designated person with Churchtown School of Music for child welfare matters. This relates not only to the student but to the welfare of any child in the location in which they are working, physically or virtually.

Location and Supervision of Lessons

- All lessons should be held in an area of the home that is open and accessible to the parents of the student. Lessons should not, for instance, take place in a bedroom with a closed door.
- Lessons will, however, need to be held in an area where student and teacher can concentrate on the lesson and not be unnecessarily interrupted. This may be hard to balance with younger children in the house and may take a few lessons to establish a good routine. All concerned need to show some patience in forming a routine and be willing to discuss ways to improve concentration during lessons.



- For students under 18 a parent/responsible adult should be in the vicinity where the lesson is taking place
- All arrangements to lessons must be made through a parent
- Any and all communications between student and teacher must be fully controlled by or accessible to parents.

Grounds for Concern

The grounds for concern laid out in Churchtown School of Music's Child Protection Policy shall apply in all lessons given over the internet and shall apply to all children in the student's home. This includes things that happen in the background or off-camera.

If a parent has any concerns about the process or relationship between student and teacher, they should contact Rebecca Maybin with Churchtown School of Music to discuss the situation. CSM undertakes to investigate all complaints or concerns regarding its teaching staff in line with our Child Protection Policy.

Raising Concerns

Concerns for the welfare of students will be dealt with in line with CSM's Child Protection Policy.

Signed

Date 16th March 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Rapp", is written below the "Signed" text.