

harp
IRELAND



CRUIT
ÉIREANN

GUIDELINES ON
PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS
FOR HARP
TEACHERS



Guidelines on Professional Standards for Harp Teachers

These guidelines aim to identify the professional standards which Cruit Éireann, Harp Ireland believes represent best practice. They are not intended to be definitive and may be amended in future in response to changing circumstances. They encompass the core values of:

- Pedagogical excellence,
- Mutual respect and
- Good governance.

EDUCATIONAL AIMS

The primary aim of harp teachers is to nurture a love of the harp and to make the pupils' learning experience happy and enjoyable. When working with their pupils, teachers should:

- Promote the musical, artistic and holistic development of their harp pupils and strive to create an environment of friendship, support and sociability.
- Acknowledge and respect the uniqueness, individuality and specific needs of pupils and support them by providing appropriate developmental opportunities.
- Treat all pupils equally, without discrimination of any kind, acting with compassion and impartiality.
- Seek to develop a positive and professional relationship with pupils.
- Use language and methodologies appropriate to the age and stage of the pupil.
- Be sensitive in expressing criticism; focus on giving positive encouragement and praise whenever possible.

LESSONS

In seeking to achieve the highest artistic and professional standards, teachers should:

- Aim to provide a varied and balanced course of study appropriate to the age and ability of each pupil.
- Make every effort to ensure that lessons take place in a room free from interruption, of adequate size, with appropriate light and heat.

- Work with the pupil, and with the parent or guardian to develop an agreed practice routine that will encourage and incentivise the pupil.
- Have regard for a pupil's overlapping musical interests and obligations.
- Endeavour to facilitate the pupil's continued study by suggesting alternative arrangements in circumstances where they are no longer available to continue teaching the pupil in question.
- Charge appropriately for services and maintain suitable records of their financial affairs.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In striving to maintain the highest possible professional standards, teachers should:

- Seek, where possible, to take advantage of ongoing professional development opportunities.
- Co-operate and collaborate with other music professionals in sharing expertise and encouraging professional development.

COMMUNICATION

In seeking to communicate clearly and openly at all times with pupils, parents, schools, partner organisations and colleagues, teachers should:

- Take steps to ensure that the terms of tuition are understood by all parties before lessons commence.
- Take care that communication with pupils is appropriate to their age, maturity and gender.
- Maintain direct communication with the parent or guardian when pupils are under 18 years of age.
- Not rely on information being passed on by the pupil, if under 18 years of age.
- In the case of adult pupils, convey information on progress on a regular basis.
- Establish a professional and co-operative relationship with the parents and/or guardians.
- Respect the parental rights to enquiry, consultation and information with regard to the musical development of their children.
- Maintain clear, accurate and up-to-date confidential records of pupils' attendance.
- Keep pupils and parents or guardians informed of the pupil's development, either verbally or in written form, in an accurate and balanced manner
- Respect the confidentiality of pupil/parent information.
- Nurture and value relationships between colleagues and peers based on mutual understanding and respect.
- Acknowledge that individuals have the right to choose a suitable teacher for themselves or their children and may transfer from one teacher to another.

- Ensure that should a pupil wish to transfer from one teacher to another, such a transfer is handled in a professional manner.

CONFIDENTIALITY/DATA PROTECTION

To comply with General Data Protection Regulations, teachers may not disclose confidential information, except as required by law, or as highlighted in the CÉHI Child Safeguarding Statement.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Prior to commencing lessons, it is recommended that teachers ask parents and/or guardians to complete a confidential form on any health needs and allergies a pupil may have, as well as providing emergency contact details for the pupil. (*See footnote 1 for a sample document.) Teachers should also make it clear to parents and/or guardians that:

They will not assist with administering any form of medication to a pupil without the consent of a parent or guardian. For safety reasons, pupils must be collected on time.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

With regard to contact with pupils, CÉHI refers teachers to their relevant Child Safeguarding Statement. In addition to the CÉHI Child Safeguarding Statement, those set out by Túsla and the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland are important and helpful resources.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Teachers should obtain the permission of pupils and parents to use their images for promotional purposes.
- Teachers should make every effort to ensure that pupils under 18 years of age are not referred to by name in any image or in any other mechanism by which they can be readily identified.

COPYRIGHT

Teachers should ensure that they are familiar with, and abide by, copyright laws. Irish copyright law is clearly outlined on [/ HYPERLINK "http://www.icla.ie" /](http://www.icla.ie). In the UK, the Music Publishers Association's Code of Fair Practice applies.

In preparing this document Cruit Éireann, Harp Ireland wishes to acknowledge existing guidelines produced by the Musicians Union, the Incorporated Society of Musicians and the Education Authority Music Service N.I.

Further information on Child Safeguarding and Welfare is available from the Child and Family Agency, TUSLA and from the Safeguarding Board for N.I.

** 1 A sample Registration Form is available on the CÉHI website www.harpireland.ie.*