



Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland (CÉHI) was established in 2017 by harpers in collaboration with The Arts Council | An Chomhairle Ealaíon to support the continuing evolution of the harp and to address the need for a professional national resource organisation to service the needs of the sector and develop and promote harping generally.

Our activities include but are not limited to an annual Lá na Cruite | Harp Day celebration, harp workshops, fundraising events, ensemble gatherings, concerts, recitals, harping festivals, Hands on Harps taster sessions, Young Harpers' Forum events and use of video/photography and other media to record harp events.

Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland is committed to the provision of a safe, positive, fun, enlightening and inclusive environment for all children participating in its events regardless of race, ability, ethnicity or sexual orientation. We undertake to adopt a child-centred approach to all of our activities involving children and young people, whereby we protect and promote their rights, including the right to be protected, treated with respect and listened to. These guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.

List of Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland Activities:

Workshops given by CÉHI personnel and by outside personnel; Fundraising events; Concerts; Ensemble Gathering; Lectures / Talks; Lá na Cruite Harp Day events; Online events; Young Harpers' Forum Use of video/photography/other media to record events

Risk Assessment:

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Note - this relates to harm as defined in the Children First Act 2015, and is separate to a health and safety risk assessment carried out in relation to activities. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified by CÉHI and the list of procedures for managing these risks in respect of its activities:

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Risk of harm not being recognised by Cruit Éireann Harp Ireland personnel	All personnel are directed to the relevant Children First training.
Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by Cruit Éireann Harp Ireland personnel	The Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures of Cruit Éireann Harp Ireland are made available to all personnel. Reporting procedures (See Section 3: CÉHI Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures) will be made available to all CÉHI staff and volunteers and regular checks and monitoring will be conducted.
Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending Cruit Éireann Harp Ireland activities	<p>Where activities are organised by Cruit Éireann Harp Ireland, participant to staff ratios which allows for adequate supervision (taking into account the age and stage of participants) is arranged.</p> <p>Communicate with schools, venues, partners, harpers, teachers and ensemble directors to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly understood.</p> <p>Ensure that the designated CÉHI staff and harpers are accountable for the specific group of children and to ensure that all children are supervised and accounted for at all times until their named adult arrives to collect them. CÉHI will ensure that primary carers are made aware of the start and finish times and all other relevant event information.</p>
Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and child or between child and adult	Where activities are organised by Cruit Éireann Harp Ireland, a copy of the Cruit Éireann Harp Ireland Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures is made available. Facilitators of activities are asked to sign a Declaration ensuring that they have read and will abide by all contained in Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures document.

Risk of harm in an online teaching situation	Cruit Éireann Harp Ireland have included procedures for online teaching in their Code of Behaviour (Section 2.1) as part of the Cruit Éireann Harp Ireland Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures.
Risk of inappropriate venue space for CÉHI event	<p>Before booking a venue CÉHI will carry out an assessment to identify any potential risk to children including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate access to the venue; - Safe movement of children within the venue; <p>Booking will not go ahead if resources and facilities are inadequate.</p>

Important Note: 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 general health and safety risk.

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2017, 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 services:

- **Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers by a child availing of our service:**

See the Cruit Éireann/Harp Ireland Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures, Section 8: Allegations of Misconduct or Abuse by Staff Members.

- **Procedure for the safe recruitment of staff:**

See the Cruit Éireann/Harp Ireland Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures, Section 5: Procedures for Recruiting and Selecting Staff.

- **Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm:**

See the Cruit Éireann/Harp Ireland Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures , Section 6: Managing and Supervising Staff.

- **Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla:**

See the Cruit Éireann/Harp Ireland Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures, Section 3: Recording & Reporting Procedures and Section 4: Statement of Confidentiality.

- **Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons:**

The Designated Liaison Person checks the Schedule of Mandated Persons (Children First Act 2015, Schedule 2) to determine if new employees are one of the classes of person defined as a mandated person and, if necessary, ensures they are added to the list of mandated persons.

- **Procedure for appointing a relevant person:**

The relevant persons are currently Aibhlín McCrann (Designated Liaison Person) and Aileen Kennedy (Deputy Designated Liaison Person) whose details are given at the end of this document. All procedures are detailed in the Cruit Éireann/Harp Ireland Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures document, which is available on the Cruit Éireann/Harp Ireland website (www.harpireland.ie).

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 is up to date as of January 2026 and will be reviewed in January 2027, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: 

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