



# SESTINA MUSIC

## CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. Sestina Music

Sestina is a vocal ensemble specialising in the performance of early music. Our ensemble of professional adult singers performs regularly in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom. The support and development of aspiring professional singers from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland is at the heart of Sestina's activities, and our annual mentoring programme works with young performers (18+ years old) at various stages of their training and careers, giving them the opportunity to work alongside world-class professionals. Sestina also has a comprehensive education and outreach programme, working with primary school children and members of the community. Sestina Music is a registered charity (NI100067) and company limited by guarantee (NI621437).

#### 1.2. Nature of the services we provide to children

Sestina's children's education projects, aimed at primary school age groups, take place several times per year. We hold one three-day project, which runs alongside rehearsals for Sestina's professional Easter concert tour, and we also bring these projects into schools (typically one or two per year). We employ experienced education facilitators to give children an experience of the music we are performing in our concerts, introducing them to composers like Handel and Monteverdi through movement, song and visual art. The projects culminate in informal performances.

#### 1.3. Our commitment to safeguard children

Sestina Music is committed to safeguarding children and, by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies, our staff will seek to create a safe environment for young people

who are involved in our cultural outreach programmes. The following set of principles are adhered to:

**Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued.

**Needs of the child** - Children’s cultural experiences should be guided by what is best for the child.

**Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in cultural activities are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect.

**Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children’s cultural activities should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.

**Equality** - All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

## 2. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure/Control in place to manage the risk</b>
1	<b>RECRUITMENT</b> Unqualified or untrained people in role of facilitator Recruitment of inappropriate people in role of facilitator Supervision issues	Sestina employs only experienced and qualified education facilitators to work with children. Facilitators will, where necessary, undergo police checks with PSNI (through Access NI), in line with Sestina’s recruitment policy and relevant legislation. Sestina will always provide adequate supervision for children’s groups. Teachers will always be present during our work in schools.
2	<b>BEHAVIOUR</b> Harm caused by behaviour of staff/facilitators, including lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy (e.g. Unauthorised photography & recording activities, or use of social media)	Sestina’s Code of Conduct and Policy and Procedures document will be communicated clearly to all staff and facilitators (anyone authorised to have access to children), including in relation to recording and photography. There will be no access to children’s areas by unauthorised personnel during the project.
3	<b>REPORTING PROCEDURES</b> Concerns of abuse or harm are not	Sestina has appointed a Designated Officer to be

	reported, because of lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures, or that there is no designated person, or the identity of this person is not known.	responsible for reporting safeguarding concerns to relevant statutory organisations. This person has had relevant training for this role and has access to resources and contacts for advice and reporting. Sestina's Policy and Procedures document, containing an outline of organisational and reporting procedures as well as contact details of Sestina's designated safeguarding personnel, will be communicated clearly to all staff and facilitators.
4	<p><b>FACILITIES</b></p> <p>Unauthorised access to designated children's areas and to facilities such as toilets etc.</p> <p>Unauthorised exit from children's areas</p> <p>Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas</p>	<p>Access to children's areas during the project will be strictly controlled, so that no unauthorised personnel can gain entry, and so that children can not exit without supervision. There will be no recording or photography except in designated areas by designated personnel.</p> <p>Facilities will be arranged so that there is no sharing of toilets or changing areas between adults and children.</p>

**3. Procedures**

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

Sestina's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures have been developed in line with the Children's (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007, with guidance from the NI Executive Department of Health document "Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland", in addition to the Republic of Ireland legislation and policy above.

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 and/or the NI Safeguarding Government Gateways;
- 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 contained in Sestina's Safeguarding Policy, which is available on request from Sestina staff.

#### 4. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going 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 on \_\_\_\_\_, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: C Burnell (Provider)

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For safeguarding queries, please contact Ciara Burnell ([ciara@sestinamusic.com](mailto:ciara@sestinamusic.com)) Sestina's Designated Child Protection Officer, who is the Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.