



**Irish Association of Youth Orchestras
Internet Teaching Child Safeguarding Statement**

July 2020

Internet Teaching Child Safeguarding Statement

It is the policy of the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras (IAYO) to safeguard the welfare of all the children and young people who are taught music and take part in our activities. IAYO 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 Irish Association of Youth Orchestras Child Safeguarding Statement and the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras Child Protection Policy, both of which are available from www.iayo.ie or in hard-copy by contacting info@iayo.ie.

Teaching of Instruments via the Internet

In facilitating access to the greatest range of instruments and teaching opportunities for our students, IAYO extends the opportunity to study with specialist instrumental teachers via the internet using videotelephony using Zoom, Skype 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 / guardians 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;
- The possibility exists for distribution of recordings of lessons on the internet by the student, parents / guardians, the teacher or IAYO. This may be desirable at times, such as for practice purposes or using the recordings to promote the usefulness of internet lessons and best practice in the area. However, the written agreement of all parties is required before any materials are distributed;
- IAYO teachers undertake to report any concerns around child welfare to the IAYO Designated Liaison Person in line with our Child Protection Policy. 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. The name and contact details of the Designated Liaison Person are included in the current IAYO Child Safeguarding Statement available from www.iayo.ie.

Parental Consent

Written consent of parents / guardians shall be sought for the purposes of:

- Engaging with the young person in their home, or other locations as decided, via internet videotelephony;

- The recording of such lessons specifying the purposes for which recordings may be used.

Location and Supervision of Lessons

- All lessons should be held in an area of the home that is open and accessible to the parents / guardians 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 without unnecessary interruption. 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.
- Ideally, a parent / guardian or other responsible person should be present with the student throughout the duration of the lesson. As trust is built, this may be relaxed with the written consent of all involved.

Videotelephony Addresses

- All lessons and student-teacher interactions on students' part must take place using videotelephony addresses that are controlled by or fully accessible to parents / guardians.
- All lessons and student-teacher interaction on teachers' part must take place using organisational addresses that are provided by and controlled by IAYO.
- The teacher should not use their own personal videotelephony addresses for the purposes of contact with the student.

Open Door Policy

- IAYO operates an open-door policy in relation to internet lessons. This means that organisational staff have access to individual teaching "rooms" or accounts and may join a lesson at any time. This is similar to open door policies existing in the non-virtual world which provide right-of-access for the safeguarding of young people.

Alternative Contact Methods

- All arrangements / re-arrangements of lessons of under-18 students must be made through a parent / guardian or with the knowledge of parents / guardians.
- Student and teacher are not to communicate via alternative telephony / electronic methods other than those specifically agreed with the parent / guardian.
- Any and all communications between student and teacher must be fully controlled by or accessible to parents / guardians.

Grounds for Concern

The grounds for concern laid out in IAYO'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 / guardian has any concerns about the process or relationship between student and teacher, they should contact IAYO's Designated Liaison Person to discuss the situation. IAYO undertakes to investigate all complaints or concerns regarding its teaching staff in line with our Child Protection Policy and our Complaints Policy, both available from www.iayo.ie.

Raising Concerns

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

Recording of Lessons

We recognise the pedagogical usefulness of sometimes recording lessons and also the usefulness of recordings in promoting online music tuition and participation. Internet lessons will not be routinely recorded but may be recorded for practice purposes or for documenting and promotion IAYO activities.

- Lessons can only be recorded with the specific consent of all involved, students, teachers, parents / guardians;
- The purpose(s) of recording shall be agreed and adhered to;
- The storage location(s) of recordings shall be agreed to and adhered to: generally-speaking, recordings of IAYO activities will not be allowed to be stored on the personal machines of tutors unless there is a specific reason to do so;
- All other data collected in relation to the student will be dealt with in line with IAYO's Data Protection Policy.

Child Safeguarding and Complaints

IAYO's Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Policy are available from <http://www.iayo.ie/about/child-protection/>

IAYO's Complaints Policy and forms are available from <http://www.iayo.ie/complaints/>



Signed Allin Gray, Director Date 01 July 2020

On behalf of Irish Association of Youth Orchestras