

Safeguarding Policy for Freelance Music Therapy in an educational setting



1. Introduction

As a freelance music therapist, I am committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people I work with. This policy outlines my approach to safeguarding, in line with the Children Act 1989 & 2004, Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2024 and other relevant UK safeguarding legislation and guidance.

2. Responsibilities & Commitment

- Prioritising the welfare and safety of children and young people at all times
- Recognising, responding to, and reporting safeguarding concerns following the procedures in place in the relevant educational setting.
- Maintaining professional boundaries and appropriate conduct as outlined by the HCPC (Health & Care Professions Council)
- Following the educational setting's safeguarding policies and procedures
- Engaging in safeguarding training as required

3. Legal & Regulatory Framework

This policy is informed by:

- The Children Act (1989) & (2004)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- The Mental Capacity Act (2005) - if relevant
- The Data Protection Act (2018) (GDPR Compliance)

4. Safeguarding Procedures

4.1. Disclosure & Reporting Concerns

If a child /young person discloses abuse or neglect:

1. **Listen carefully** - allow the child/young person to speak freely without interrupting.
2. **Reassure the child/young person** - let them know they have done the right thing disclosing to a trusted person.
3. **Do not promise confidentiality** - explain that any concerns must be reported.
4. **Record facts accurately** - note dates, times and exact words used.

5. **Report immediately** - share concerns with the school's (or educational setting's) Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) using their procedures for reporting a concern.

4.2. Responding to Allegations Against Me

- If an allegation is made, I will fully cooperate with school procedures.
- I will ensure that I do not work unsupervised until the matter is resolved.
- I will seek guidance from my professional body (e.g., BAMT - British Association for Music Therapy).

5. Working Safely with Children & Young People

- **Accessibility:** Sessions should take place in a designated space within the school where the teacher is aware of where the child/young person is.
- **Parental Consent:** Ensure consent is obtained before beginning therapy.
- **Professional Boundaries:** Avoid personal contact outside of sessions.
- **Confidentiality:** Store records securely in compliance with GDPR but share safeguarding concerns with the school/educational setting.
- **Online Safety:** If sessions occur online, follow best practice for digital safeguarding.

6. Training & Ongoing Development

- I will undertake regular safeguarding training as required (at least every two years) by the school/educational setting and ensure I am up to date with my relevant training.
- I will stay updated on legislation and best practices in safeguarding.

7. Contact Details

- Local Authority Safeguarding Team (Hertfordshire)
Telephone: 0300 123 4043.
Website: Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children (links to Hertfordshire County Council website) <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/childrens-social-care/child-protection/hertfordshire-safeguarding-children-partnership/hscp.aspx>
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

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