



CHILD PROTECTION

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Bromley Youth Music Trust (BYMT) is committed to providing environments that are safe for participation of children and young people involved in music making activities.
2. This statement conveys the message to all BYMT personnel (management, administration, tutors and volunteers) responsible for music making activities that they have a statutory duty under the 2004 Children's Act to provide safeguards dedicated to the well-being of those under the age of 18 years. The legislation covers young people with special needs up to the age of 19 years.
3. BYMT complies with the government legislation that supports measures for the protection of children and other vulnerable groups.
4. The abuse of children is not acceptable and BYMT encourages all incidents or suspicions of such abuse to be reported immediately through the Principal of Bromley Youth Music Trust (or the Head Teacher of the school concerned) to the appropriate authorities.

BYMT's Child Protection Policy establishes the following principles:

- That the welfare of the child is paramount
- That all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse.
- That all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- That all staff and volunteers have a responsibility to report their concerns over children and/or other staff and volunteers.

This policy is linked to procedures that make clear:

- What is good practice amongst all personnel
- That the ways in which all personnel are recruited and selected ensures their suitability for working with children.
- How to properly respond to suspicions and allegations.
- How to ensure confidentiality.

Categories of abuse:

5. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting; by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. The definitions below are from *Working together to Safeguard Children* (Department of Health, 1999)

6. *Physical abuse.* Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child whom they are looking after.
7. *Emotional abuse.* Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of child, though it may occur alone.
8. *Sexual abuse.* Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
9. *Neglect.* Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.