

Branch Safeguarding Statement Template 2024-2025

Éire

Craobh: Maigh Nuad Contae: Chill Dara

- *Comhaltas Child Protection Policy; Guidelines & Procedures in respect of Branch Involvement with Children/young persons and Vulnerable Adults issued as a guide to units/centres. This policy as stands, or as adapted appropriately by the unit/centre considering local provisions, is recorded as being adopted by each unit/centre on an annual basis.*
- *Comhaltas Child Protection Training Content and Guidelines; Training facilitated and provided by Tomás Ó Maoldomhnaigh (National Liaison for Comhaltas in relation to Child Protection and Garda Vetting).*
- *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*
- *Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement (www.tusla.ie)*
- *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice (www.tusla.ie)*

1. Name of service being provided:

CCE Maigh Nuad provides music classes, sessions and social events to children under the age of 18.

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm: We recognize our obligations to protect all children up to the age of 18 In all activities of CCE Mhaigh Nuad.

Comhaltas is a voluntary based organisation. Its aims and objectives and are stated in its Bunreacht. The organisation is understood to be a key contributor to the informal music education sector, organising community based classes in traditional Irish music, song, dance, and other cultural activity. It also organises various public events and activities that promote cultural activity amongst children and adults.

Sample Principles to safeguard children from harm.

Regular review and appropriate updating of the COMHALTAS Child Protection Policy taking local provision into consideration.

Our branch has appointed a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for matters in relation to Child Protection and Guidelines and Procedures in respect of Branch Involvement with Children/Young persons and Vulnerable Adults.

All Comhaltas personnel with regular access to children and/or vulnerable adults are required by the organisation to apply for Garda Vetting (Form NVB1) facilitated by Comhaltas

All such personnel are asked to submit their notice of confirmed Vetting – DISCLOSURE document and CCÉ Certificate - to any unit of Comhaltas for which they operate any activity that involves regular access to children/ vulnerable adults.

In circumstances where the regular adult – e.g. volunteer teacher/tutor/ organiser/ activity leader is not available at short notice, the unit will ensure that any replacement adult working with the children is in the company of a Comhaltas vetted adult.

Minors between the ages of 16 and 18 can apply for Garda vetting with consent (Form NVB3), from their parent/guardian. Comhaltas recommends that minors who work with children/vulnerable adults should be mentored by experienced and vetted adults to ensure that young leaders develop interpersonal skills that reflect best practice.

Parents and guardians of children attending classes and activities are at all times notified of appropriate schedules, locations etc of activities.

Parents and guardians are informed of the local Comhaltas unit's policy and practices relating to activities organised for children and pupils – e.g. if regular attendance at a class is necessary to ensure consideration for a branch activity.

Comhaltas officers/mentors are volunteers who need to use the most efficient means of communicating details of activities relevant to their pupils, young members and participants. Parents/guardians are asked to provide their mobile numbers/email addresses in this regard. *Comhaltas adults do not knowingly communicate with a pupil/minor using any means of digital or other communication including social media.*

Any photographs or audio/visual recordings of any minor taken by a Comhaltas officer/member are taken in the presence of the parent/guardian and with the consent of the parent/guardian. It should be noted that recordings of artists, whatever age, are very much part of the intergenerational transmission of Irish traditional music.

As applies in any activity involving young persons, it is regarded as part of the parents'/guardians' duty to ensure that the child is accompanied safely to the appointed location where the activity is taking place and given into to the temporary care of the designated adult.

In many Comhaltas settings children/minors participate in a number of classes/activities which do not run consecutively. Some units are in a position to provide a waiting area with designated supervisors. Supervision arrangements in such cases will be communicated to parents/guardians. The class register/attendance sheet is an important element of Child Protection Policy implementation.

Branch teachers and mentors are fully aware of their role and responsibilities in respect of appropriate supervision of children while in their care and the general supervision practices of the branch.

Parents/guardians are informed of the Branch Policy in terms of the use of mobile phones/digital recording devices. In addition parents/guardians should be aware that any use of social media by their child, including sharing of digital files, is not the responsibility of the Comhaltas unit.

From a Health & Safety and Child Safeguarding perspective, the unit has given careful consideration to the lay-out of the building(s) it uses, and the facilities within that are accessed by children and adults, during any planned Comhaltas activity.

Comhaltas activities are understood to be group activities. If a branch finds itself with a 1:1 adult-child tuition/activity situation, the door of the room must remain open and the adult must give prior notification that a 1:1 situation has arisen.

Comhaltas mentors, teachers and relevant personnel are recommended to complete the online TUSLA Access to Children First E-Learning Programme.

All Comhaltas units are requested to ensure that Child Protection and Safeguarding are an item on the agenda of each meeting of the unit, to ensure continued awareness and to allow for continued updating and review. This inclusion of the topic on the minutes allows for local review on local provision.

3. 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.

	Risk Identified	Procedure to manage identified risk
1	Challenges/specific issues relating to the building(s)/ facilities used for Comhaltas classes / events to ensure adequate safety and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adult	Use a Branch Class/Activity Memo for supervisors, teachers, mentors, & designated adults, which details supervision, appropriate access and exit, class register etc .and is communicated to adults/parents. Ensure that there are no hazards in the facilities being used and ensure that all fire escape routes are free of obstructions.
2	A 'substitute' teacher/mentor who needs to be engaged due to need but who does not have Comhaltas vetting.	The Branch has a policy in relation to same – If such a teacher/mentor is considered to teach a class / co-ordinate a branch activity on a once-off basis, a Comhaltas Garda-vetted adult remains in the classroom area at all times.
3	Clarifying responsibility in terms of the care of branch junior members at Comhaltas and non Comhaltas public and participative events.	Ensuring that parents/guardians, relevant adult are aware of the remit of the branch/teachers/mentors in relation to the branch participation in public events and of parental/guardian duties in terms of accompanying their children and/or making provisions for the adequate care and supervision of their child/minor.
4	Inappropriate use of electronic devices including mobile phones/ smart phones/iPads by pupils during Comhaltas activities	Unit has a policy/guideline document in place in relation to the use of electronic devices during Comhaltas classes/activities. Parents/guardians are informed of this policy.
5	Use of images in Comhaltas publicity material	Branches of Comhaltas have a policy of requesting appropriate consent regarding the use of images of minors/vulnerable adults used in promotional-publicity material/communications.

4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the following policies and procedures:

- (1) Comhaltas Child Protection Policy and Guidelines & Procedures in respect of branch involvement with children/young persons and vulnerable adults
- (2) Appointing a Branch DLP
- (3) Mandatory Garda Vetting for all Comhaltas personnel with regular access to children and vulnerable adults.
- (4) Carrying out a risk assessment based on the local provisions and setting.
- (5) Completing the Branch Child Safeguarding Statement which is considered and adopted by the branch committee.

Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla is outlined by the Comhaltas Child Protection Policy and during training seminars facilitated by Tomás Ó Maoldomhnaigh, Comhaltas National Child Protection Liaison.

The statutory 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*, are core documents which inform the above and are available on Tusla's website.

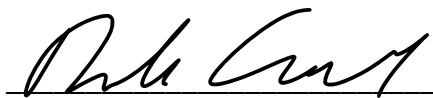
Attendance at the training seminars presented by Tomás Ó Maoldomhnaigh, National Comhaltas Child Protection Liaison also provides ongoing guidance to Comhaltas units and personnel. An ONLINE Child Protection Seminar is available on www.comhaltas.ie
All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Branch Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Branch Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in October 2025 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Derek Carroll, Cathaoirleach

Branch: Craobh Mhaigh Nuad

Phone: 0863124165

E-mail: eolas@ccemhaighnuad.com

For queries, please contact Branch DLP

Mary Howley Phone: 0870570823

E-mail: marymcmahonhowley178@gmail.com