



Northumberland County Council

Music Partnership North - Safeguarding for Remote Learning

This document is not intended in any way to replace existing safeguarding policies and systems. It is a supplement to the MPN Safeguarding Policy.

The Department for Education's (DfE) statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' obliges schools and colleges in England to *"ensure appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place. Children should not be able to access harmful or inappropriate material from the school or college's IT system."*

However, the guidance also recognises the value of being online and that schools *"should be careful that 'over blocking' does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regard to online teaching and safeguarding."*

Many music teachers have successfully used Skype, FaceTime, Zoom and similar audio-visual software to deliver lessons in recent years. In light of the recent decision to close schools to most students for the foreseeable future many music services and hubs are now developing strategies for remote learning.

Safeguarding remains as important in this environment as anywhere else, and MPN is keen to ensure that all lessons are arranged and conducted in such a way that parents, children and staff are kept safe.

All tutors delivering lessons for MPN have an Enhanced Disclosure DBS certificate and receive regular safeguarding training, in line with Northumberland County Council policies.

Administration of lessons

- Any communication outside of lessons should take place between parents and tutors and should not involve the child/student.
- Tutors must use their dedicated work email address and a dedicated work account for online delivery platforms.
- Tutors must use an appropriate image for any profile pictures. Tutors must not share any personal information such as personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses or social media details.
- Lessons should be accessed on a device that is logged in to a parent (rather than child/student) account.

Standards in Lessons

- A parent (or supervising adult) should be in the room with the student for the duration of the online lesson.
- Tutors and students must conduct themselves as they would in a school setting. Both tutor and student should be dressed appropriately (no pyjamas!) and be mindful to use appropriate language and body language. The tutor must ensure their NCC ID badge is visible/worn throughout the lesson.
- Tutors and students should both be in an appropriate room within the home. Online teaching should not reveal details about the personal life of the tutor or the student. Where possible, both participants should be against a fairly neutral background and in a suitable location within the home (not a bedroom).
- The tutor should deliver the lesson from a private room that is free from distractions. Other individuals must not be present in the tutor's teaching room.
- A member of the MPN Leadership Team may occasionally 'join' a lesson for quality assurance purposes, much like an in-person lesson observation in school. This facility is also an important safeguarding measure.
- All browser windows that are not pertinent to the lesson should be closed, and both parent and teacher devices should be in 'do not disturb' mode.
- It may be useful to use 'screen sharing' in order to allow students to view resources. Bearing this in mind, desktops/backgrounds should be carefully considered and like physical backgrounds should not reveal details about the personal life of the tutor or the student.
- The parent/student/tutor all have the right to terminate the session at any time if they are not comfortable.

Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to:

Jacky Craig - Lead Officer, Music Partnership North

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01670 624040

Or if unavailable

David Francis - Deputy Lead Officer, Music Partnership North

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