



British Suzuki Music Association - Child Protection Policy

Date of last review: October 2025

Our child protection policy

This policy applies to all staff, including the board of trustees, paid staff, teachers, teaching assistants, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of the British Suzuki Music Association (BSMA). The purposes of this policy are:

- to protect children and young people who receive services from the BSMA. This includes the children of adults who use our services and those attending BSMA events; and
- to provide staff, teachers and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

The BSMA believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them and promotes their welfare.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely: • Children Act 1989

- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children.

Our commitment to child welfare

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989 • all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing them, helping them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting a code of conduct for staff, teachers and volunteers: see Appendix 1 • developing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures: see Appendix 2 • providing a copy of this policy to staff, teachers and volunteers who have access to children. • recruiting staff, teachers and volunteers safely: see Appendix 3
- requiring all BSMA teachers and paid staff to agree to abide by this policy
- sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately

Recognising Abuse

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, defines the following categories of abuse:

Abuse. A form of maltreatment of a child. 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 others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Emotional abuse. Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

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. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger.

- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care givers)
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

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 fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

Sexual abuse. Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

How to report concerns

Any concern that a member of staff, teacher or anyone associated with the BSMA has breached these guidelines should be reported immediately to Ms Nickie Chapman, [Administrator, BSMA Office, admin@british Suzuki.com, 020 31764170], or in her absence to Ms Hannah Biss, Chair of Trustees, [british_suzukichair@gmail.com]

Any concern that a child with which the BSMA has contact is suffering from any kind of abuse from a parent or carer should be reported either to the NSPCC (who can be called on 0808 800 5000 – calls are free from landlines and most mobiles) or to the Child Protection Services arm of your local authority

Reviewing this policy

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.