

JUNIOR ACADEMY

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

JULY 2021

The Royal Academy of Music, of which Junior Academy is an integral part, fully recognises its responsibilities for Child Protection. Any mention of Junior Academy in this statement is understood also to include Junior Jazz, Primary Academy, First String Experience and First Guitar Experience.

This statement covers the following areas:

- Creating a safe and supportive environment
- Supporting students
- Following guidance and appropriate procedures
- Responsibilities

Our Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSOs) are:

- **Junior Academy** - John Hutchins, Director
- **Primary Academy** - Krystyna Budzynska, Director

This statement is not intended to represent the full [Junior Academy Policies](#) or [RAM Child Protection and Safeguarding policy](#).

CREATING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

- We follow safe recruitment procedures in checking the suitability of staff to work with students. All staff, including those coming in as weekly deputies, must show evidence of a current DBS check.
- All Junior Academy teaching staff have undertaken the NSPCC Child Protection in Schools training course and renew it every three years.
- All staff and students are issued with ID badges and are expected to wear them each week.
- Security staff are present in the Front Hall throughout the day to monitor those entering and leaving the main Academy building.
- We acknowledge that the Royal Academy of Music is a vibrant and open place and that it is neither desirable nor possible to run Junior Academy along the same lines as a school. We therefore expect students to exercise maturity and vigilance, and encourage all students and staff to pass on any concerns to the main office immediately.
- It is made clear, via the JA and PA handbooks to parents and students, that if students leave the Academy during the day on Saturdays, other than for official Academy activities, it is entirely at their own risk.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

For all students at Junior Academy, we will endeavour to:

- Establish and maintain an environment where students feel happy, secure, can learn, thrive and reach their potential in safety
- Ensure that all students are listened to
- Ensure students know there are adults whom they can approach if they are worried about their own wellbeing or safety, or that of a friend
- Recognise that bullying, including cyber-bullying, may be an indicator of abuse and therefore lead to consideration under Child Protection procedures

We will also, through our Special Educational Needs (SEN) co-ordinator, endeavour to give particular support to students with SEN, who may feel particularly vulnerable at Junior Academy. This may be through modified teaching methods or other means of assistance, as discussed between the SEN Co-ordinator and the students' families.

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE AND APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES

We follow current legislation and guidance issued by the NSPCC to all UK Music Conservatoires.

We will:

- Ensure we have Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSOs) in both Junior and Primary Academy and that they receive appropriate training at least every two years
- Keep written records of concerns about students, even when there is no need to refer the matter immediately, and make referrals when appropriate
- Ensure all records are kept securely in a locked location
- Liaise with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for any advice on how to proceed with a concern

RESPONSIBILITIES

Designated Safeguarding Officer - The DSOs' key role is to ensure that the procedures and policies in place at the RAM are followed with regard to Child Protection issues, and that there is a member of staff available for others to consult for advice.

The DSO, in consultation with the RAM Designated Safeguarding Lead, is responsible for referring cases of suspected abuse or allegations to the relevant agencies, according to the procedures and policies in place. The DSO has a legal responsibility to pass on information to outside agencies if a child's safety may be at risk.

STAFF

All staff at Junior Academy should be familiar with the contents of this statement, and with where to find the fuller policies listed on page 1. In particular, through their training, they should have an awareness of key safeguarding issues: factors that put children at risk, signs of potential abuse, and understanding the Academy's procedures for dealing with and passing on concerns.

All staff have a professional and legal responsibility to share information about the protection of children with the appropriate person. Members of staff should never promise complete confidentiality, but can let a student know that only those who need to know will be informed, and this will always be for the sake of the student's own wellbeing. All staff should be aware of issues relating to confidentiality and the passing on of information on a 'need to know' basis only.

Junior Academy

July 2021