



IPBA Child Safeguarding Statement

About the IPBA

- The Irish Pipe Band Association is an umbrella organisation for registered member pipe bands in the Republic of Ireland . Many of our member bands have an active programme of recruiting juveniles to their respective bands for the purpose of learning how to play pipes and drums.
- On average, the IPBA has 30-40 member bands in any calendar year.
- On average , a member band would consist of 20-25 persons.
- The IPBA has a voluntary structure consisting of a National Executive and four Branch Areas - Leinster, South East , Munster, and North-west.
- The association does not have any employed persons.
- Each band in the Association is required to have a Child Protection Policy which adheres to the principles and practices stipulated in the Children First Act 2015 .
- Many of our member pipe bands have a juvenile section and many bands are also welcoming of vulnerable adults.

Activities

Our member bands regularly take part in the following types of activity :

- Practice sessions and rehearsals
- Street Parades
- Solo and Band Competitions
- Recitals
- Concerts
- Fund-raising activities
- Seminars and Training courses

The Irish Pipe Band Association occasionally organises the following types of activity:

- Instructional courses and seminars in musical theory, practical musicianship, and band and organisational matters for its member bands.
- Solo competitions for players.
- Pipe band competitions for its member bands.

Locations

- The Irish Pipe Band Association does not have its own premises.
- Pipe Band Contests are usually held in public parks in a variety of locations in Ireland.
- Solo competitions are usually held in school facilities at various locations in the Republic of Ireland.
- Pipe Band Association meetings are usually held in hired rooms in a variety of hotels in the Republic of Ireland.
- Most member bands use local school facilities or halls for practice purposes.
- A small number of pipe bands have their own band halls.

Child Protection Measures

- The Irish Pipe Band Association has registered with the Carlow Volunteer Centre for the purpose of Garda Vetting.
- The IPBA has appointed a Designated Liaison person.
- The IPBA has produced a comprehensive Child Protection Policy.
- The IPBA has disseminated a Child Safeguarding Statement template to all member bands.
- All member bands are asked to have their instructors Garda Vetted.
- Any person asking to become an associate member of the Irish Pipe Band Association must be Garda Vetted.
- The IPBA has a designated section on its web page www.ipba.ie for Child Protection Policies, Garda Vetting Forms, etc.

- The IPBA asks all member bands to indicate on their registration form each year that their tutors have been Garda Vetted.
- The IPBA adheres to the principles and procedures outlined in the Children First Act 2015.

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against adult members or band tutors of a child availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe selection of volunteers to work with children .
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person .

All procedures listed are available upon request.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our band is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while members of our band.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed prior to IPBA AGM each year , or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____

Child Protect Officer, IPBA

Signed: _____

Chairman, IPBA