

River Music School UK's Child Protection Policy

We, River Music School UK (RMS), acknowledge that we have responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of the child or young person during lessons, and work to ensure the highest standards. This policy also applies to anyone who engages with RMS including tutors, parents and guardians.

Every child has equal protection from all types of harm or abuse, regardless of their age, gender, race, religion, identity, disability or sexual orientation.

Claims which are concerned with the harm or abuse of a child will be fully investigated. Relevant procedures may be taken into action. At the same time, we will strive to keep strict confidentiality, as much as is appropriate.

All of our tutors will go through an Enhanced DBS Check, which assesses their suitability to work with children before they are able to teach lessons.

Records of child protection reports and issues will be written as a document and will remain confidential between RMS, the victim and any governing authority (e.g. police).

Definition of child abuse

The definition of **child abuse**, as the NSPCC have stated, is:

"...when a child is intentionally harmed by an adult or another child – it can be over a period of time but can also be a one-off action. It can be physical, sexual or emotional and it can happen in person or online. It can also be a lack of love, care and attention – this is neglect."

The following information has been defined by the NSPCC, the UK's trusted child protection agency.

Physical abuse includes:

- hitting with hands or objects
- slapping and punching
- kicking
- shaking
- throwing
- biting and scratching
- burning and scalding
- breaking bones

Emotional abuse includes:

- humiliating or constantly criticising a child
- threatening, shouting at a child or calling them names
- making the child the subject of jokes, or using sarcasm to hurt a child
- blaming and scapegoating
- making a child perform degrading acts
- not recognising a child's own individuality or trying to control their lives
- pushing a child too hard or not recognising their limitations

- exposing a child to upsetting events or situations
- manipulating a child

Sexual abuse includes:

- sexual touching of any part of a child's body, whether they're clothed or not
- using a body part or object to rape or penetrate a child
- forcing a child to take part in sexual activities
- making a child undress or touch someone else
- exposing or flashing to the child
- showing pornography
- exposing a child to sexual acts
- making them masturbate
- forcing a child to make, view or share child abuse images or videos
- making, viewing or distributing child abuse images or video
- forcing a child to take part in sexual activities or conversations online or through a smartphone

Neglect includes:

- physical neglect: a child's basic needs are not met or they aren't properly supervised or kept safe from physical or emotional harm or danger
- educational neglect: a parent doesn't ensure or actively denies their child an education
- emotional neglect: a child doesn't get the nurture and stimulation they need. This could be through ignoring, humiliating, intimidating or isolating them
- medical neglect: medical care and treatment are not accessible or given to the child

RMM's Code of Conduct

We operate under the following code of conduct:

- 1) All tutors are obliged to respect the child's welfare and needs at all times.
- 2) Physical contact which is inappropriate or unwanted must not occur with children at any time.
- 3) There shall be no discussion about sexually related subjects, and any sexual behaviour or contact is strictly forbidden.
- 4) Tutors cannot aid a child if they require to use the bathroom. The child should be aided only by a parent or guardian.
- 5) River Music School UK does not condone lessons occurring within private rooms of a student's or tutor's home. We encourage that in-home lessons occur within public rooms of the home. Students who choose to have lessons in private rooms accept responsibility for this decision and understand that River Music School UK has advised against this in our policy.
- 6) Parents and guardians are expected to report any issue or situation to the Director.
- 7) Tutors are obliged to report any issue or situation to the Director.