

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

The National Association of Gaelic Arts Youth Tuition Festivals

Fèisean nan Gàidheal undertakes to take all reasonable measures and advise Fèisean so that they may ensure the safety and well-being of all participants, members, leaders and tutors protecting them from sexual, physical and emotional harm.

We have a Child Protection Policy, to which all Fèisean must adhere, and implement. Therefore anyone working with children and young people, including all staff, volunteers and tutors should make themselves familiar with the requirements of this policy, a summary of which is contained on this card.

You should be aware of the criteria on which these guidelines are based:

- the need to protect children and young people in our care
- the need to protect staff, volunteers and tutors
- the need to protect Fèisean nan Gàidheal as an organisation, especially from litigation

CODE OF GOOD BEHAVIOUR AND GOOD PRACTICE

YOU SHOULD

- Respect everyone as an individual
- Provide a good example of acceptable behaviour
- Respect everyone's right to personal privacy
- Be available as a listening ear, and if necessary refer for more appropriate help
- Be sensitive to other peoples likes and dislikes
- Try to make sure your actions cannot be misunderstood or cause offence
- Show understanding when dealing with sensitive issues
- Where possible plan activities which involve more than one person being present or at least within sight or hearing
- Check sleeping arrangements for adults, children and young people is appropriate

YOU SHOULD NOT

- Permit abusive behaviour e.g bullying, ridiculing
- Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others
- Jump to conclusions or make assumptions about others without checking facts
- Encourage inappropriate attention seeking behaviour.
- Show favouritism to anyone
- Make suggestive remarks or actions, even in jest
- Deliberately place yourself or others in a compromising situation
- Believe it could never happen to you

What should you do if ... abuse is disclosed or discovered?

- Do not delay
- Do not act alone
- Do not start to investigate
- Do consult with the person to whom you are directly responsible

... if a young person tells you that s/he has been abused ...?

- You must never promise you will not tell anyone
- Do show acceptance of what the child says
- Your reaction should be neutral
- Do not press for information or ask leading questions
- You should be aware the child may have been threatened
- As soon as possible afterwards you should write down what the child has told you

If you are a committee member, volunteer or tutor you should contact the person to whom you are responsible, who will then inform the appropriate authority.

Confidentiality must be a priority but under no circumstances should any individual, or the organisation itself, attempt to deal with the problems of abuse alone.

The full policy, and further information, is available from
Fèisean nan Gàidheal

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