



[www.musica-workshops.com](http://www.musica-workshops.com)  
registered charity no.1150769

# **YOUTH INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

# 1. Purpose

This policy is designed to ensure consistent, high quality child participation practice throughout Musica programmes.

They are intended to establish a safe, meaningful environment for participation and minimise the risk to children from involvement in participation.

They aim to provide a framework that gives guidance and direction to staff enabling them to continuously review and improve their service to children/young people.

# 2. Persons Affected

Staff of Musica  
Service users of Musica

# 3. Policy

Musica is dedicated to safeguarding children and young people and is fully committed to the following principles of participation, as reflected by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- Children have rights to be listened to, to freely express their views on all matters that affect them, and to freedom of expression, thought, association and access to information.
- Measures should be put in place to encourage and facilitate their participation in accordance with their age and maturity.
- Participation should promote the best interest of the child and enhance the personal development of each child.
- All children have equal rights to participation without discrimination.
- All children have the right to be protected from manipulation, violence, abuse and exploitation.

When developing areas of work involving the participation of children it is our policy that the following standards will be applied;

- **The approach used will be ethical, transparent, honest and accountable.**  
The children will be able to freely express their views and opinions and have them treated with respect.

There will be clarity of purpose about their participation and they will understand

how much impact they can have on decision making and who will make the final decision.

- **A child's participation will be relevant and voluntary.** Their involvement will build on their personal knowledge – the information and insights they have about their own lives, their communities and issues that affect them. They can withdraw their involvement at any stage.
- **The environment that the work will take place in will be appropriate, child-friendly and enabling.** The quality and effectiveness of children's participation and their ability to benefit from it are strongly influenced by a positive, appropriate environment being created for them.
- **Equal opportunities will be applied throughout to ensure that all children who want to have an equal chance to participate.** All children will have an equal chance to participate if they wish to.
- **Staff involved in this work will be effective and confident.** Staff will understand how to effectively and appropriately work with children and young people through the involvement process. They will understand the wide range of various methods that can be used to facilitate this involvement.
- **Participation will promote the safety and protection of children.** We will ensure that risks of abuse and or other negative consequences of their involvement are minimised.
- **Follow up and evaluation will always happen.** Respect for children's involvement is indicated by our commitment to provide feedback and/or follow up and to evaluate the quality and impact of children's involvement.

For full procedures for the above refer to Youth involvement procedures.

## 4. Definitions

**Children:** This includes anyone up to the age of 18.

**Participation:** These are opportunities to express a view, influence decision-making and achieving change. This is through an informed and willing involvement of the children, including the most marginalised, those of different ages and abilities, in any matter either directly or indirectly concerning them.

## **5. Verification**

The Trustees will verify this policy through:

- Feedback