

Haslingfield Choir

Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Child Protection Policy Statement

Haslingfield Choir is currently made up of adult singers, but its performances include joint events with children, and children may be involved in future rehearsals and concerts.

We therefore recognise that it has a duty of care to safeguard and protect all children and young people, in our care, from harm. We believe that children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse and have the right to be treated fairly and justly. We recognise our duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968, the protection of Children Act 1999 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000. The Children Acts 1989 and 2004.

We recognise that abuse comes in many forms (definitions taken from NSPCC Child Protection Fact Sheet 2014):

- Physical: happens when a child is deliberately hurt, causing injuries such as cuts, bruises and broken bones. It can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, slapping or suffocating. It is also physical abuse when a parent or carer fabricates, or induces, the symptoms of an illness in a child.
- FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) : Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision or cutting.
- Emotional: is persistent and, over time, it severely damages a child's emotional development. Active emotional abuse involves an adult deliberately trying to scare, humiliate or verbally abuse a child. Passive emotional abuse happens when a parent or carer denies the child the love and care they need in order to be healthy and happy. Such adults might be emotionally unavailable; fail to offer their child praise and encouragement; interact with them in an age-inappropriate way; be overprotective, limiting their opportunities to explore, learn and make friends; or expect the child to meet the parent's own emotional needs.
- Sexual (including sexual exploitation): involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities. It does not necessarily involve violence and the child may or may not be aware of what is happening. Sexual abuse includes: grooming a child with the intention of sexually abusing them; all forms of penetrative and non-penetrative sex; sexually exploiting a child in return for gifts, money or affection; and making, looking at and distributing indecent images of a child.

- Neglect: is persistently failing to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs resulting in serious damage to their health and development. Neglect is difficult to define as it is hard to describe the absence of something such as love or attention (Daniel et al, 2011). In practical terms, neglect may involve a parent's or carer's failure to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter protect the child from physical and emotional harm or danger supervise the child properly make sure the child receives appropriate medical care or treatment. Neglect often happens at the same time as other types of abuse (Daniel et al, 2011; Rees et al, 2011).

Children may also witness domestic abuse; it's often difficult to tell if domestic abuse is happening, because it usually takes place in the family home and abusers can act very differently when other people are around.

Children who witness domestic abuse may:

- become aggressive
- display anti-social behaviour
- suffer from depression or anxiety

We also recognise the contribution that we can make towards protecting children and young people from radicalisation, extremism and sexual abuse.

We recognise that members of the society cannot diagnose abuse, but that all concerns or suspicions should be reported.

We believe that all children have the right to fair treatment and so uphold the following values:

- Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism;
- Bullying will not be accepted or condoned – any concerns regarding this will be investigated and dealt with, involving the young people and their parents.
- All adult members of the organisation provide a positive role model for dealing with other people; action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour;
- It will keep up-to-date with health and safety legislation;
- It will keep informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children;
- It will undertake relevant development and training;

2. Key People.

We recognise that all members of Haslingfield Choir have a duty of care towards the safeguarding and protection of young people and adults. We regularly update our policy and share it with members so they are aware of the systems in place.

Safeguarding Officer:

The Safeguarding Officer, supported by the committee, will ensure that all members have read the safeguarding policy and are aware of the procedure to follow when registering a concern. The Safeguarding Officer, will support any members in registering a concern and will ensure all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

The Safeguarding Officer will be the chair of Trustees.

Chaperones:

As part of the Child Licensing Regulations, we recognise the need for clarity about provision of licensed chaperones. On the occasions where we perform alongside children's choirs, we will expect them to take responsibility for the provision of appropriately trained and checked chaperones. We will confirm these arrangements ahead of any joint performance.

3. Reporting Procedure.



If the concern for the child's welfare is deemed as immediate, then 999 should be called.

Otherwise contact:

0345 045 5203 (office hours) - 01733 234 724 (out of hours)
MASH.C&F@cambridgeshire.gcsx.gov.uk

Relevant Contacts/extra sources of information

NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Let's talk about it: <http://www.ltai.info/spotting-signs/> Stop it now:

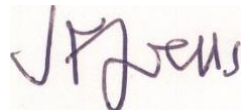
<https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/>

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-socialcare/about-social-work/>

Approved Date: February 2020

Reviewed date: 16th April 2023

Signed:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Wells', is written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Jonathan Wells – Chair

Next review date: April 2026