

# **WARRINER CHORAL SOCIETY SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

## **Legal Context**

The law requires any organisation involving young people to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risk of harm to vulnerable adults' and children's welfare is minimised, and where there are concerns, to share them with other local agencies.

The legal requirements arise from the Children Act 1989 and 2004. The relevant government guidance includes Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015. It is in line with the inter agency procedures of the Oxfordshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (**MASH 0345 050 7666**) The Choral Society has also taken input from the national amateur music performance association Making Music.

Warriner Choral Society recognises that it is not the role of their organisation to decide whether a child or vulnerable adult has been abused or not. This is the role of the Social Services department who have legal responsibility and powers to investigate child protection concerns under the Children Act.

## **Who are Children or Vulnerable Adults?**

In this context anyone up to the age of 16 is a child and anyone 16 years or over who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation is a vulnerable adult.

## **How Warriner Choral Society operates**

Warriner Choral Society is an organisation composed of choir members. Officers are elected and others co-opted to serve on the committee. Rehearsals are run by our self-employed Musical Director or a substitute on occasion, with an accompanist. There are neither employed staff nor volunteers in the conventional sense.

Warriner Choral Society does not advertise itself as an activity suitable for children or vulnerable adults. Most choir members are independent adults. It happens only rarely that a young person or vulnerable adult joins, rehearses and performs with us.

Choir rehearsals and performances are group activities, and there is no need for a member of the choir to be alone with another member of any age. Warriner Choral Society is therefore unlikely to be targeted by a person seeking opportunities to abuse children or vulnerable adults. Nonetheless Warriner Choral Society recognises the need to safeguard any young and vulnerable members and the Committee has therefore agreed the following Safeguarding Policy:

## **Warriner Choral Society's Safeguarding Policy**

1. Warriner Choral Society will publicise its Safeguarding policy on its website ([www.warrinerchoralsociety.co.uk](http://www.warrinerchoralsociety.co.uk)) and draw it to the attention of members at the beginning of each season.
2. Young people will be welcome to participate in choral works requiring children and/or youth voices with Warriner Choral Society as long as they bring a parent or other responsible adult who remains responsible for them throughout rehearsals and performances.

3. Warriner Choral Society has nominated a Designated Person, Mrs M C Hardie, who is DBS-checked and who will attend appropriate training as required.
4. Choir members will report any concerns to the Designated Person. Detailed Guidance is available from the Designated Person (see Appendix)
5. In the absence of the Designated Person the matter should be brought to the attention of the Secretary of the Warriner Choral Society. A permanent confidential record will be kept of the report.
6. If Warriner Choral Society should need to recruit staff, then we will apply safeguarding principles to ensure that appointees are suitable to work with young or vulnerable people.
7. The policy and procedures will be reviewed annually at committee meeting.

Agreed and approved by the committee of the Society

Signed by the Chair on behalf of the Committee

G N Nunn  
Chair  
Warriner Choral Society

## APPENDIX

### **The role of the Designated Person is to:**

- Obtain information from members, children or parents and carers who have child protection concerns or concerns about the welfare of a vulnerable adult, and to record this information
- Assess the information quickly and carefully and ask for further clarification as appropriate
- Make a referral to a statutory child protection agency or appropriate agency for vulnerable adults, or the police without delay
- If in any doubt about what to do, to seek advice from Children's or Social Services
- **It is not the Designated Person's role to investigate**

### **If a child or vulnerable adult has a symptom of physical injury or neglect, and the abuse may have been deliberate the Designated Person will:**

- Contact Children's or Social Services for advice
- Seek emergency medical attention if it is necessary and inform the doctor of any suspicions of abuse. The doctor will then initiate further action if necessary
- Inform the parents or carers only if advised by Children's or Social Services to do so

### **If a child or vulnerable adult has a symptom of physical injury or neglect, but there is no sign that the abuse was deliberate, the Designated Person will:**

- Seek emergency medical attention if it is necessary and inform the doctor of any suspicions of abuse. The doctor will then initiate further action if necessary
- Otherwise, speak with the parent/carer/guardian and suggest that medical help/attention is sought for the child
- If appropriate, encourage the parent/carer to seek help from Children's/Social Services

### **In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse the Designated Person will:**

- Contact Children's/ Social Services and speak to no one else about the matter.

### **In the event of allegations or suspicions made against the Designated Person by a child or a vulnerable adult**

- Speak with the Musical Director
- Make a direct referral to Children's/Social Services