



Registered Charity No.1104982

Safeguarding Policy

Legal Context

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

The relevant legal requirements arise from:

The Children Act 1989 (as amended)
The Human Rights Act 1998
The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
The Care Act (2014)
The relevant government guidance
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Andover Choral Society recognises that it is not the role of our 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 or the NSPCC who have powers to investigate child protection concerns under the Children Act.

Good Practice

In developing this policy, Andover Choral Society has taken input from the national amateur music performance association Making Music.

Who are Children or Vulnerable Adults?

In this context anyone up to the age of 19 is a child and anyone over 18 years 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 Andover Choral Society Operates

Andover Choral Society is a Registered Charity, 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.

Andover Choral Society does not advertise itself as suitable for children or vulnerable adults. Most choir members are independent adults. However, some young people and vulnerable adults do on occasion rehearse and perform with us.

Our rehearsal venue is a Rookwood School, an independent day and boarding school and they have asked us to provide a Safeguarding Policy to comply with their hire of premises agreement. 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. Andover Choral Society is therefore unlikely to be targeted by a person seeking opportunities to abuse children or vulnerable adults. Nonetheless Andover Choral Society recognises the need to safeguard any young and vulnerable members and the Committee has therefore agreed the following Safeguarding Policy.

Andover Choral Society's Safeguarding Policy

1. Andover Choral Society will publicise its Safeguarding policy on its website www.Andoverchoralsociety.org.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 Andover Choral Society as long as they bring a parent or other responsible adult who remains responsible for them throughout rehearsals and performances.

3. Choir members will report any concerns to the Chairman.

5. In the absence of the chairman, the matter should be brought to the attention of the Secretary of the Andover Choral Society. A permanent confidential record will be kept of the report.

6. The policy and procedures will be reviewed annually at committee meeting.

Approved at a committee meeting on 24 January 2023.
Signed by the Secretary, on behalf of the Committee.

Chairman – Mrs Susan Woodley

Signed:

Secretary – Mrs Frances Lynn

Signed: