

Barnet Choral Society

Safeguarding Policy

Our Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to all members, visitors and people supporting the work of Barnet Choral Society. We believe that a child, young person or vulnerable adult should never experience abuse or neglect. We take our responsibility seriously and are committed to work at all times in a way which protects them.

The purpose of this policy is:

- to provide everyone who is involved with the choir with a safe, enjoyable and stimulating experience while ensuring that as far as possible, they are properly safeguarded.
- to set out for staff, members and volunteers the overarching principles which guide our approach to safeguarding vulnerable people.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and current best practice guidance and will be updated to reflect future changes.

We recognise that:

- all children, young people and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have an equal right to protection from abuse or neglect.
- some are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, disability, or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare

We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:

- valuing them, respecting them and listening to them
- setting out a clear safeguarding policy and ensuring that choir members are aware of it and have regard to it at all times.
- ensuring that responsibility for any vulnerable person joining the choir is taken by an existing choral member, ideally a relative of the person. Where this is not possible, a parent or guardian must nominate a member of the choir to take on the responsibility. The relationship must be agreed in writing by all three participants.
- ensuring that adults behave appropriately towards children, avoiding situations where they are alone with a child out of sight/hearing of others or using inappropriate physical or verbal interaction.

- where concerns arise about the actions of members or visitors we will take action as set out below.
- sharing concerns in respect of individual children and vulnerable adults with the appropriate agencies and co-operating with any subsequent investigations.
- appointing a committee level safeguarding lead and making it clear who this is on the choir's website.

Dealing with suspicions or disclosures

- Any person who has concerns over a child or adult protection issue should initially discuss them with either the Chair or the Safeguarding lead. If the concerns involve the Chair, inform the Safeguarding lead. If they involve the Safeguarding lead, inform the chair.
- If the person discloses abuse of some kind to a member, the member should listen without making judgmental comments, but should make it clear that they will have to pass the information to others who will take action.
- Details of this initial conversation should be logged and should include the name, the nature of the concerns, the names of those present and what action was taken at the time.
- On receipt of the information, the Chair/Safeguarding lead will decide on the best way to proceed. This may include: simply noting the information, informing the parent/guardian or referring the matter on.
- If it appears that a criminal offence may have been committed, then this will be reported to the police for further investigation.
- Child or Adult protection concerns will be reported to the appropriate department of Barnet Council. The relevant procedures for investigating abuse and neglect are:
For Children: <http://www.londoncp.co.uk>
For Adults: <http://londonadass.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019.04.23-Review-of-the-Multi-Agency-Adult-Safeguarding-policy-and-procedures-2019-final-1-1.pdf>

We will keep our policy and practice up to date by reviewing it every 2 years.

Agreed by the committee: August 2018
 Adopted by the membership: January 2019
 Signed: Meg Kirk (Chair)

For review: October 2020

Agreed by the committee: 19 October 2020
 Adopted by the membership:
 Signed: Meg Kirk (Chair)
 Signed: Mike Benaim (Safeguarding Lead)

For review: August 2022

Agreed by the committee: 18 September 2023
 Adopted by the membership:
 Signed: Shelagh Cohen (Chair)
 Signed: Mike Benaim (Safeguarding Lead)

For review: September 2025