

Granta Chorale - Safeguarding Policy

Commitment to safeguarding: Granta Chorale values its strong relationships with the local community and encourages the development of able singers and hence seeks to provide a safe and secure environment for including young people. Whilst the choir wishes to encourage young singers in Y12-13, we need to do so with due regard for their needs and the choir's responsibilities.

Granta Chorale has an adult and young person membership so does not have responsibility for the care of children as part of its regular activities.

About this policy

- This policy applies to all members and volunteers and anyone working on behalf of Granta Chorale or taking part in Granta Chorale activities
- The purpose of this policy is to provide members and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to the protection of vulnerable people
- This policy recognises vulnerable people as:
 - Children up to the age of 16 and young people aged 16-18
 - Adults aged over 18 defined as vulnerable by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006; this might include adults with a learning or physical disability, a physical or mental illness, chronic or otherwise, including an addiction to alcohol or drugs, or reduced physical or mental capacity.
- This policy aims to:
 - Protect young people and vulnerable adults who are members of, or volunteer for, Granta Chorale
 - Ensure members and volunteers who are working with young people and vulnerable adults understand this Safeguarding Policy and follow it to safeguard those vulnerable individuals they are interacting with
 - Ensure that safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is a primary consideration when Granta Chorale undertakes any activity, event or project.

How Granta Chorale works with vulnerable people: Membership is open to those over 16 years of age. We run regular rehearsals for members and put on concerts for the general public. As such our involvement with vulnerable people might include, but is not limited to:

- Members of the group who attend rehearsals and concerts
- Relatives and friends of members who attend rehearsals and concerts in a volunteering capacity
- Audience members at public concerts.

Named Safeguarding Officer: Mark Norman is the Safeguarding Officer has responsibility for safeguarding issues. Kathryn Middleton is the nominated Deputy Safeguarding Officer.

All queries and concerns relating to safeguarding should be referred to the Safeguarding Officer in the first instance.

Any projects, events or other activities that will involve vulnerable people must be planned with the involvement of the Safeguarding Officer and in line with established procedures and ground rules (see below).

Safeguarding Guidelines:

The following guidelines should be followed to ensure adherence to this policy.

In general, members should avoid all situations where an adult is alone with a child or young person; children should always be accompanied by the parent or guardian who is responsible for their care (“the appropriate adult”).

Guidelines relating to young people joining Granta Chorale or attending events such as singing days:

1. It is the general policy for young people who join Granta Chorale for events such as rehearsals and concerts to be in the care of an appropriate responsible adult.
2. Where a young person between the age of 16 and 18 is planning to attend a Granta Chorale event on their own they must have the written permission of their parent or guardian which should include responsibility for their transport to and from rehearsals and other events.
3. Children under the age of 16 may attend rehearsals, concerts and other events, such as Singing Days, only if accompanied by their parent or guardian or by an appropriate adult nominated in writing by their parent/guardian.
4. Young people should only be included in formal email communications from the Committee and the Musical Director and any e-mail sent to a young person should also be copied to the parent or carer.
5. Young people will not be included in social media communications, including the Granta Chorale WhatsApp group.
6. Only photographers authorised by the committee can take images of young people, or post pictures of young people on social media, and only if appropriate consent has been given.
7. Anyone encouraging a young person to join should seek permission from the Musical Director and a Co-Chair as soon as possible and in any event at least 1 week before bringing the young person to a rehearsal. Guardian consent & additional information will be required by the Co-Chair before a young person can attend.
8. The Safeguarding Officer (or deputy) will be identified to all young people participating in events as the principal person they should turn to if they have any concerns or questions.
9. Members of Granta Chorale should not give lifts to young people (unless they are the nominated appropriate adult) except in an emergency when they should ensure that there is another adult in the car with them.

Guidelines relating to children attending public performances

1. Special discounts for children will always refer to “accompanied children”.
2. Children, young people and vulnerable adults who are in the audience for a Granta Chorale event should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Guidelines relating to vulnerable adults

The presumption is that adults have mental capacity to make informed choices about their safety and how they live their lives. All adults may have periods of vulnerability due to mental or physical ill-health or disability and they will decide if they wish to participate in the activities of Granta Chorale during such periods. Where adults informed Granta Chorale of a vulnerability, it is the responsibility of Granta Chorale to ensure that their safety and well-being is safeguarded during their participation.

General Guidelines for all events

1. The Concert Manager is responsible, on behalf of Granta Chorale Committee, for the risk assessment of all activities undertaken by Granta Chorale including rehearsals, performances and other events. The risk assessment should take due account of any known vulnerabilities e.g. restricted mobility, sensory impairment etc.

2. There should be a main contact for safeguarding available at all events, particularly when children, young people and vulnerable adults are expected to attend. This would normally be the Safeguarding Officer or deputy. Another nominated person, DBS checked, may act as the main contact for safeguarding for specific events. Any concerns for the well-being of a vulnerable person should be referred to them, including any allegations of abuse.

What to do if someone suspects or alleges abuse:

If there is an immediate risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult then contact the Police on 999. The location of the rehearsal venue and Saffron Hall is Saffron Walden County High School, Audley Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4UH

Children and Young people – Essex Helpline

- Where there are immediate concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or young person:
Telephone: **0345 603 7627 Priority line**
Out of hours Telephone: **0345 606 1212** or email:
Emergency.DutyTeamOutOfHours@essex.gov.uk
- For all other enquiries: Telephone: 0345 603 7627 Consultation line

Vulnerable Adults – Essex Social Care Direct 0345 6037630

Then contact the Safeguarding Officer who will advise of the next steps. Further details are set out in the Safeguarding guidelines.

Contact details:

Safeguarding Officer

Mark Norman can be contacted on mnorman@swchs.net

NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

Policy review:

This policy and associated guidelines will be reviewed and amended (if necessary) on an annual basis by the Committee. It will also be reviewed in response to changes in relevant legislation, good practice, or in response to an identified failing in its effectiveness.

This policy was last reviewed on23rd January 2023.....

Signed:..........

Chair of Granta Chorale Committee