Whitsand Harmony Safeguarding Policy

Commitment to safeguarding

Whitsand Harmony believes that no child, young person or adult should experience abuse of any kind. We are committed to safeguarding the well-being of all children, young people and adults we come into contact with and to protecting them from harm. We recognise that we have a responsibility to promote their welfare.

About this policy

This policy applies to all choir members and any other persons working on behalf of Whitsand Harmony or taking part in Whitsand Harmony activities. The purpose of this policy is to provide members and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to the protection of people who may be at risk of harm. This policy aims to ensure the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk is a primary consideration in the rehearsal venue, concerts and other events.

This policy recognises people at risk of harm as:

- Children up to the age of 16 or 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

Legal context

The law requires any organisation involving children, young people and 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. Whitsand Harmony recognises that it is not the role of our organisation to decide whether someone has been abused or not. It is our responsibility to refer our concerns to the appropriate agencies.

About Whitsand Harmony

Whitsand Harmony is a well-established four-part harmony (SATB) choir singing a wide variety of music from Mozart to Mercury. Adaptable for any event, the Musical Director delivers programmes to suit all occasions, be it a silver wedding, church event, memorials, birthday party or fundraising concert.

The choir does not advertise itself as an activity suitable for children or adults at risk. Choir members are independent adults and generally the choir's membership does not include children under 18.

How Whitsand Harmony may work with people at risk of harm

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

Guidelines for good practice

Whitsand Harmony will publicise its Safeguarding Policy on its website and draw it to the attention of choir members when meeting at the beginning of each season. The choir has nominated a Designated Safeguarding Officer, who will undertake appropriate training as required and will be identified to the choir as the principal person they should turn to if they have any safeguarding concerns or queries. Any events that involve people at risk of harm must be planned with the involvement of the Designated Safeguarding Officer and in line with the established procedures and ground rules.

Membership

Should any child or close relative (under 18) of a member of the choir participate in choral works with Whitsand Harmony, that member of the choir must act as a responsible adult. Should any other child/young person participate in Whitsand Harmony activities, they must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult who remains responsible for them throughout the rehearsal and performances. Should any member of the choir be considered an adult at risk, (see above for the definition of a vulnerable adult), then a risk assessment will be undertaken in their best interests and appropriate action taken to safeguard them.

Audience Events

Whitsand Harmony is aware that children and adults at risk may attend their concerts as members of the audience. It is the responsibility of the parent, guardian or carer to ensure adequate supervision. If a parent or guardian or carer is not personally attending an event, this policy requires them to be satisfied that the child or adult at risk will be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible adult acting of their behalf at all times.

Privacy

Parents, guardians and members of the choir should be aware that photography, audio and video recordings are officially undertaken from time to time at concerts and rehearsals. The images and recordings are used by the choir to promote the work of the choir to a wider audience and form part of the historical record of our work

Designated Safeguarding Officer

Gillian Evans is the Designated Safeguarding Officer and has the responsibility for safeguarding issues. They may be contacted in person or via *gillfloev@aol.com*

Procedures for raising safeguarding concerns and incidents of abuse

Any concern regarding a child, young person or adult at risk associated with the choir must immediately be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Officer. If any member of the choir or volunteer witnesses, suspects or is informed of a witnessed or suspected case of abuse, they should immediately report it to the Designated Safeguarding Officer. Examples of abuse include: physical abuse, domestic violence or abuse, sexual abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, self-neglect. If the Designated Safeguarding Officer is not available, or is involved in or connected to the abuse, it

should be reported to the Committee Chair or the Vice Chair or Secretary. If an individual wishes to report an incident of abuse against themselves, they should report it to the Designated Safeguarding Officer or an individual they trust.

Procedures for dealing with concerns and incidents of abuse

The Designated Safeguarding Officer (or person reported to in their absence) will take the lead on responding to the information. This might include:

- Assessing if the person is in immediate danger or needs emergency medical attention
- Making a note of the concerns reported to them
- Assessing and clarifying the information
- Consulting with and informing the Chair of the Committee
- Referring the issue further, if appropriate, to the relevant organisation

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed and amended (as necessary) every year by the committee. It will also be reviewed in response to changes in relevant legislation and good practice.

Responsibility of implementing this safeguarding policy

All members of the choir have the responsibility to follow the guidelines laid out in this policy.
The committee has the responsibility to ensure that this safeguarding policy is implemented, to review it every year and to display it on the Whitsand Harmony website.

This policy was agreed by the committee on 12th October 2026

Date of next review: October 2027