



## Child Protection Policy January 2019

### 1. The Purpose and Function of the Festival

The High Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir Festival of Young Musicians is held annually in March and provides a platform for children of school years 5-13 to perform in front of an audience and adjudicator. The Festival is held in the Wesley Methodist Church, Priory Road, High Wycombe HP13 6SE.

### 2. The Festival

The Festival is run by volunteer choristers who are members of the High Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir. In partnership with parents, guardians, carers and teachers, the Festival seeks to provide a safe environment as far as is reasonably practicable for everyone who attends this event.

### 3. Scope of the Policy

This policy relates to children under the age of 18 years who are taking part in the event whether as a competitor or accompanist. The Choir actively seeks to meet as far as is practicable any special needs notified in advance to the Festival organiser by parents/guardians/carers and/or teachers to enable all participants to gain the most from their involvement in this event.

### 4. Festival / Choir Personnel

Personnel are identified by the wearing of the Choir's uniform comprising powder blue blazer and Orpheus tie.

### 5. Preparation for Attendance at the Festival

The Choir is not a childcare organisation in the full meaning of the Protection of Children Act 1999. Parents, guardians, carers and teachers and those in charge of groups are reminded that they are the primary carers, and the safety and good behaviour of all children is totally their responsibility while attending the Festival. If parents or guardians are unable to attend the Festival, they must satisfy themselves that their children are properly supervised by another responsible adult acting on their behalf. High Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir personnel are not permitted to take on this role. Entrants under the age of 18 without suitable adult supervision may be permitted to take part, but will not be allowed into the rehearsal room or backstage areas. This includes entrants under the age of 18 who have an accompanist also under the age of 18.

### 6. Performance, warm up and waiting Areas

The Festival endeavours to provide the most suitable performing and warm up facilities available but draws to the attention of parents and guardians that public areas such as toilets are unsupervised. No responsibility can be undertaken for loss of personal property, including instruments.

### 7. Photography and Film

Parent(s) may video/film or photograph their own children, but no flash photography is allowed apart from during the presentation of certificates. The Choir may provide their own photographer

or film producer (please see separate rules of the Festival). Parents should always be present for any official photography. If there is any objection to any child being photographed or videoed whilst attending the Festival, the Festival Coordinator must be informed in writing before the Festival commences in order that instructions can be issued.

## 8. Concerts and Music Tours

Participants in the Festival may be asked to perform at the Choir's concerts held throughout the year or to join a music tour. In all cases rule 5 above will apply.

## 9. The Legislation and Guidance that supports this Policy

The Children Act 1989 (as amended), The Children and Social Work Act 2017, The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018, The General Data Protection Regulation (2018)

## 10. Policy Review

The High Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir Committee undertakes to treat every problem seriously, to document it and follow it through. This Policy will constantly be reviewed to improve and enhance it as necessary. In doing this, the Choir will aim to adhere to NSPCC guidelines.

**Child Protection Officer:** Louise Langley, Musical Director

**Trustees:**

**Chairman:** Stuart Aitken

**Secretary:** Craig Lewis

**Treasurer:** Jonathan Slack

**Festival Coordinator:** James Smith