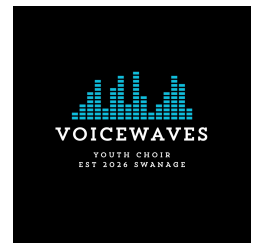


VoiceWaves Youth Choir



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2026

Introduction

This document sets out the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for VoiceWaves Youth Choir. It applies to all staff, volunteers, choir leaders, helpers, and anyone working with or supporting the choir.

The purpose of VoiceWaves Youth Choir is to provide young people with opportunities to enjoy singing, music-making, performance, creativity, confidence-building, and social connection within a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment.

VoiceWaves Youth Choir recognises its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults involved in its activities. The organisation is committed to creating an environment where everyone feels safe, respected, valued, and listened to.

The choir accepts responsibility for children and young people during rehearsals, performances, trips, workshops, and any choir-related activities where they are under the supervision of the organisation. Parents or carers remain responsible for children outside these agreed times.

This policy exists to:

- protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults involved in the choir
- provide guidance to adults working with them
- ensure concerns are handled appropriately and promptly
- promote best safeguarding practice throughout the organisation

Any concerns regarding the welfare, safety, or conduct of any member, volunteer, leader, or participant should be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding leads:

- Rebecca Field-Bunney
- Nick Field

This policy is informed by current UK safeguarding legislation and guidance, including:

- *Working Together to Safeguard Children*
- *Keeping Children Safe in Education*
- guidance from Dorset Council and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

Safeguarding Principles

VoiceWaves Youth Choir believes that:

- The welfare of the child or young person is always paramount.
- All children and young people have the right to protection from abuse, harm, neglect, and exploitation.
- All participants should be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness.
- The rights, wishes, and feelings of children, young people, vulnerable adults, and their families will be respected and listened to.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- All concerns and allegations will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately.

Appropriate Conduct Around Children

All adults involved with the choir must ensure that their behaviour around children and young people is appropriate at all times.

Adults should:

- use appropriate language
- model respectful and inclusive behaviour
- maintain clear professional boundaries
- avoid favouritism
- ensure actions and interactions are transparent and appropriate

Adults should not:

- be alone in a private 1:1 situation with a child who is not their own, unless unavoidable and agreed as part of safeguarding procedures
- engage in inappropriate physical contact
- communicate privately with young members through personal social media accounts
- behave in a way that could be misinterpreted or make a child uncomfortable

Physical contact should always:

- be appropriate and necessary
- relate to safety, wellbeing, or the activity taking place
- respect the child's personal boundaries

Supervision

Children and young people attending rehearsals and performances will be appropriately supervised by designated adults and volunteers.

Where performances or events take place in theatres or external venues:

- children will remain under supervised care at all times
- changing areas will be supervised appropriately
- only authorised adults will have access to backstage or changing areas during youth activities

Parents and carers are responsible for informing the choir of:

- medical conditions
- additional needs
- emergency contact details
- collection arrangements

First Aid and Medical Emergencies

Any first aid administered to a child should, where possible, be carried out by the designated first aider or a suitably qualified adult.

In an emergency:

- the child's welfare will take priority
- parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible
- an incident record will be completed where appropriate

Vulnerable Adults

VoiceWaves Youth Choir recognises that vulnerable adults may also participate in activities and may require additional support and safeguarding.

They will be treated with dignity and respect, with appropriate safeguarding measures applied according to individual needs and circumstances.

Confidentiality

Information relating to safeguarding concerns will be handled sensitively and confidentially.

Information will only be shared:

- with those who need to know in order to protect a child or vulnerable person
- where there is a legal or safeguarding obligation to do so

Records relating to safeguarding concerns will be stored securely.

Reporting Concerns

Any safeguarding concern, allegation, disclosure, or suspicion of abuse should be reported immediately to a designated safeguarding lead.

If a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, emergency services should be contacted without delay.

All concerns will be:

- taken seriously
- recorded appropriately
- responded to in line with safeguarding procedures

Agreement

All staff, volunteers, helpers, choir leaders, and relevant adults working with VoiceWaves Youth Choir are required to read and follow this policy.

- have read and understood the policy
- agree to follow safeguarding procedures
- understand their responsibility to safeguard children and vulnerable adults