

THREE SPIRES SINGERS

President: Petroc Trelawny



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Three Spires Singers is a choir of some 120 adult members who come from all over Cornwall to rehearse and, usually, perform in Truro. This safeguarding policy was formulated in anticipation of a group of teenaged children joining the choir for rehearsal and performance of Handel's Messiah in the autumn of 2016. Naturally, the same principles of child protection apply in the event of all future performances where children are included. The choir expects that singing with us will be an enjoyable and educational experience for the children, and recognises its responsibility in ensuring their well-being and safety. The safeguarding policy has been formulated following the guidance of Safe Network, the safeguarding advice resource of the NSPCC, and Making Music, the national amateur music performance association.

Safeguarding Policy

Three Spires Singers, (TSS) is committed to taking all reasonable measures to ensure that risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised.

TSS recognises its duty of care towards the children to see that all young people's rights to protection from abuse, whether physical, emotional or sexual, are upheld.

TSS undertakes to ensure that all suspicions or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

TSS accepts that all Choir members have a duty of care to abide by this policy and to report concerns. All Choir members and officers are required to familiarise themselves with this document.

Code of Behaviour

Choir rehearsals and performances are group activities, and it is expected that, other than for comfort breaks, children will remain with the group. There is no need for any member of the choir to be alone with a child, unless they are a known family member or

guardian. All children will be treated with respect at all times: their contributions as members of the entire team are recognised and as such they are of equal importance to any other performer.

The responsibility for the safe transport of children to and from rehearsals and performances rests with their parents or carers.

Responding to reports of abuse from a child

Three Spires Singers notes the importance of being alert to signals of abuse, to the difficulty children may have in reporting it, and to responding appropriately to a child who has a complaint. Any expression of concern regarding either a child, or a Choir member, will immediately be logged and reported by the Designated Safeguarding Person or the choir Chair to the Cornwall Council Multi-agency Referral Unit. Confidentiality for all parties will be maintained at every stage of such an event.

In the event of a young person expressing concern to the Designated Safeguarding Person or another choir member they will:

- Listen carefully
- Reassure the young person that the matter will be disclosed only to those who need to know about it
- Avoid leading questions or closed questions
- Write down what has been said, with date and time and any names mentioned.
- Tell the young person what will happen next (confidential reporting to Multi – agency Referral Unit for investigation.)

Contact details

If a concern is expressed by a child to a choir member or a choir member has a concern relating to the conduct of a choir member with a child they should contact

Lois Bush – Designated Safeguarding Person Tel. 01872 225630 or, if not available, to Alice Sendall Tel. 01209 482871 or/and

Lora Wicks – TSS Chair Tel. 01872 572979 and

Cornwall Council Multi-agency Referral Unit: Tel. 0300 1231116

Three Spires Singers management committee. October 2016