

How Frodsham & District Choral Society Operates

The Choir is a Registered Charity administered by Officers and other committee members who are elected to serve on the Committee. Rehearsals are run by our self-employed Musical Director with a professional accompanist. From time to time Frodsham & District Choral Society organises other events such as concerts, choral workshops and 'Come and Sing' days.

The Choir does not advertise itself as an activity suitable for children. It happens only rarely that a child joins, rehearses and performs with us.

Choir rehearsals and performances are group activities, and there is no need for a member of the choir to be alone with another member of any age. The Choir is therefore unlikely to be targeted by a person seeking opportunities to abuse children or vulnerable adults. Nonetheless the Trustees of the Choir recognise the need to safeguard the welfare of any child or vulnerable adult with whom we may work or come into contact.



Frodsham & District Choral Society (FDCS) - Safeguarding

fdcs.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 511939

Frodsham & District Choral Society (FDCS) is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of children or of adults when they are vulnerable and at risk, are paramount. FDCS recognises that it has a particular care for all who are vulnerable whether as a result of disabilities or reduction in capacities or by their situation.

Abuse can happen anywhere and be carried out by anyone. This might be family, friends, neighbours, paid staff, volunteers, carers, other service users or even complete strangers.

FDCS follow the advice of Cheshire West's Safeguarding Children's Partnership and are committed to **Safeguarding Everyone** aims to promote greater awareness and understanding of what we can do to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities. Everyone has the right to live a life free from fear, abuse or neglect. Any form of harm is unacceptable, no matter what justification or reason may be given for it.

This short animation aims to encourage us to think about how we can play our part to keep everyone safe, know how to report any concerns and ensure that everyone is supported to live healthy, happy and fulfilling lives. [Safeguarding Everyone Animation](#)

While you are watching the animation, please consider the following questions:

- ask yourself how you would respond in these situations?
- think about situations that you may come across in your role?
- who would you speak to if you had a concern for a child or adults welfare?

The course is accompanied by the **Safeguarding Everyone learning pack**. [Safeguarding Everyone Resource Pack](#)

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and applies to all members and trustees, volunteers or anyone working on behalf of FDCS. It is intended to be a dynamic policy to support the Choir in being a safe supportive and caring community for children and vulnerable adults.

The purpose of this policy:

- to protect children and vulnerable adults who join FDCS or take part in our rehearsals or concerts or are members of our audience
- to demonstrate compliance with the Children's Act 1989 and 2004/ The Care Act 2014/Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

FDCS understands that safeguarding is the process of protecting children and vulnerable adult from harm – whether the harm is caused by accidents. FDCS recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, discriminatory, domestic or institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media, child sexual exploitation or human trafficking (slavery). FDCS has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults who come into contact with FDCS activities and to keep them safe. We are committed to operate in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of each child/vulnerable adult is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse

- all vulnerable adults, regardless of, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children and their teachers and parents/carers is essential in promoting their welfare.
- working in partnership with vulnerable adults, any carers and any care plan is essential to promoting their welfare.

We will seek to keep children and vulnerable adults safe by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection/vulnerable adult government legislation and guidance for safe practice through procedures and a code of conduct for all members and volunteers and sharing good practice with all members
- working closely with any teachers and/or school staff who have direct responsibility for safeguarding the children in their care
- working closely with any carers and/or care staff who have direct responsibility for safeguarding the vulnerable adults in their care
- reporting suspicions or allegations of abuse to the appropriate contact as soon as possible.

Reporting

If you have concerns about a child's welfare, or feel that they may be being abused or neglected, please contact the [Integrated Access and Referral Team \(I-ART\) or the Emergency Duty Team \(out of hours\)](#). Cheshire Police can also be contacted on **0845 458 0000 (999 in an emergency)**. Please be assured that your referral will be treated in the strictest confidence. Remember, your call could mean the start of getting the right help to a family and may even save a child's life.

Safeguarding Board Links

[Cheshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership \(cheshirewestscp.co.uk\)](http://cheshirewestscp.co.uk)

[Local Safeguarding Adults Board \(LSAB\) | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Compliance / Actions to be taken by the Trustees / Members

As and when a child may apply to join FDCS we will:

1. Obtain written permission from their parent / guardian
2. Appoint one or more adult member(s) to act as mentor / supporter with parental permission and obtain DBS/enhanced DBS checks, as necessary

Key concepts and definitions

i) A child is anyone who has not yet reached their eighteenth birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, a member of the armed forces, in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.

ii) Adult at risk - A person aged 18 or over who is in need of care and support, regardless of whether they are receiving them, and because of those needs are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect.

iii) Safeguarding: protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.

iv) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity, which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm.

List of contacts:

The Designated Person (Safeguarding Officer): Morag Bragger (Enhanced DBS checked.)

The Chair: Morag Bragger

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: May 2023