

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY implemented from March 2006

Last reviewed January 2012

FULL NAME OF ORGANISATION: Grantham Music Festival

CHAIRMAN: Jeff Troke

SECRETARY: Veronica Townsend

TREASURER: Denhys Lambley

VENUES: ChristChurch (Finkin Street); Priory Ruskin Academy

DATES: Spring Term - March/April

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT: The safety of children and vulnerable adults is paramount and all, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately and all the charity's trustees, staff and volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns.

1. PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF ORGANISATION:

The object of the festival is to advance the education of the public in the Arts. It provides a platform for amateur performance combined with an educational element from professional musicians.

2. THE FESTIVAL ENVIRONMENT:

The festival is run entirely by dedicated volunteers who aim to provide, as far as is reasonably practicable, a safe environment at each of the festival venues.

3. TO WHOM DOES THIS POLICY APPLY?:

This policy relates to children under the age of 18 years and those vulnerable adults of any age who are identified to the organisers prior to their arrival at the festival. This should be done by contacting the address or telephone number on the enclosed letter. In recognising the needs of children from ethnic groups and children who are disabled, the festival actively seeks to meet the needs notified to the festival by parents, guardians, carers and/or teachers.

4. FESTIVAL PERSONNEL:

All festival helpers are volunteers and are recruited by personal recommendation, or are teachers in the area. Festival roles are considered during recruitment. The festival secretary holds contact details for all personnel, and where they are working in contact with children and vulnerable adults, holds references and declarations. Furthermore, all festival helpers are aware of and support the Child Protection Policy.

All festival personnel are informed how to direct children and vulnerable adults with a problem to the designated person. Every concern raised will be taken seriously, documented and dated. Festival personnel are easily identified by their official festival badge.

5. PREPARATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE FESTIVAL:

All competitors under the age of 18 years, and vulnerable adults of any age, must be supervised by a parent, guardian or carer. Where a parent, guardian or carer is not personally attending with their child/vulnerable adult, this Policy requires them to be satisfied that the child/vulnerable adult will be accompanied to the festival and adequately supervised by an adult acting on their behalf.

The festival, where reasonable, allows free entry for one responsible adult per competitor under 18 years/vulnerable adult. (Exceptions include: choirs, orchestras, large group entries, etc, which have teacher supervision).

6. PERFORMANCE AREAS AND CHANGING AREAS:

The festival does not offer supervised changing facilities. The toilet facility is a public area and is not supervised.

7. PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOTAPES and PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY:

Video recording and the taking of photographs by any means is prohibited at all times. The Grantham Journal photographer is invited to attend the festival during certain classes. Parents/guardians/carers, who do not wish their child/vulnerable adult to be photographed, are invited to make their concerns known, at the time, to any festival helper. Festival personnel are easily identified by their official festival badge.

8. THE LEGISLATION and GUIDANCE THAT SUPPORTS THIS POLICY:

The Children Act 1989; The Police Act 1997; The Data Protection Act 1998; The Human Rights Act 1998; The Protection of Children Act 1999; The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

9. POLICY REVIEW:

The organisers will constantly review their policy, improving and enhancing it as necessary. In doing this they will look to The British & International Federation of Festivals for support and that body, in turn, will look to other agencies for good practice, most notably the NSPCC and Arts Council of policy guidelines.