



# Barnes Concert Band Child Safeguarding Policy

## Policy Statement

Barnes Concert Band (BCB) works with children and young people in education and community settings. Its members are mainly adults, however from time to time, young people (under the age of 18 years) become involved in the activities of the BCB, usually as players. BCB welcomes and actively encourages the involvement of such young people, to foster their musical development and as a way of encouraging future membership. However we need to ensure their safety and well-being whilst they are in our care. We are committed to the well-being and safety of every child we work with, and this policy outlines the principles we work to.

## Principles

In all our work with children we adhere to the following principles:

- ➔ the well-being and safety of each child is our primary concern.
- ➔ we respect the rights of every child we work with .
- ➔ all children are treated equitably and sensitively.
- ➔ relationships between our members and children should be based on mutual trust and respect.
- ➔ the feelings and concerns of any child or their parent/carer are listened to and acted upon.
- ➔ all our members have a responsibility to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of any child with whom they come into contact. Any suspicions of abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

## Legal context

BCB uses the term 'child' to refer to anyone under the age of 18, as defined by the children Act 1989. The safety of the children we work with is our priority. Although not legally required to do so, we take every reasonable step to ensure a level of care that is comparable to the requirements of the Protection of Children Act 1999.

## Good practice guidelines.

All people working with BCB should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect themselves from false allegations.

The following are common sense examples of how BCB can create a positive culture and climate. This policy and these guidelines apply to anyone who works with BCB on a permanent or temporary basis.

- ➔ undertake to assess risks at the outset of any project with young people and monitor risks throughout

- ➔ identify the people with designated protection responsibility at the outset
- ➔ know how to get in touch with local authority services, in case there is a need to report a concern to them
- ➔ have agreed procedures for reporting suspicion or allegations of abuse
- ➔ make clear who is responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection children (in this case the BCB committee members).

#### **Members and Volunteers will:**

- ➔ treat all children and young people with respect
- ➔ be excellent role models for dealings with other people
- ➔ give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- ➔ put the welfare of each participant first, before achieving goals
- ➔ ensure that wherever possible there is more than one adult present during activities
- ➔ respect a young person's right to personal privacy
- ➔ encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like
- ➔ remember that someone else might misinterpret their actions no matter how well intentioned
- ➔ be aware that physical contact with a child or young person may be misinterpreted
- ➔ recognise that special caution is required when discussing sensitive issues with children or young people
- ➔ challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/suspensions of abuse

#### **Members and Volunteers should not:**

- ➔ have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children or young people
- ➔ allow themselves to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour
- ➔ make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children
- ➔ exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues
- ➔ show favouritism to any individual
- ➔ take a chance when common sense, policy or practice suggests a more prudent approach
- ➔ meet with any such child outside such activities or away from the normal meeting places of the BCB, without parental knowledge and approval

#### **Information for children, young people, parents/guardians, carers, schools and community workers**

BCB recognises that an effective Child Protection Policy requires it to work with parents, teachers and the wider community. BCB's Child Protection Policy will be made available to anyone who would like to read it.

#### **Complaints Procedure**

Any complaints regarding the safety of children and/or the conduct of members towards such children are to be referred to the designated safeguarding officer in the first instance. He/she will then raise it with the committee as a whole, who will decide what further action should be taken, if relevant. Committee will then report back to the complainant.