

Safeguarding Policy

Legal Context

The law requires any organisation involving young people and vulnerable adults to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risk of harm to their welfare are minimised, and where there are concerns, to share them with other local agencies. The relevant legal requirements arise from:

The Children's Act 1989

The Human Rights Act 1998

The Protection of Children Act 1999

The Sexual Offences (Amendments) Act 2006

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The relevant government guidance includes Safe from Harm 1993

Working Together to Safeguard Children 1999

Caring for the Young and Vulnerable 2000

Pinsuti Chamber Choir recognises that it is not the role of our organisation to decide whether a child or vulnerable adult has been abused or not. This is the role of the Social Services department who have legal responsibility or the NSPCC who have powers to investigate child protection concerns under the Children Act.

Good Practice

In developing this policy, Pinsuti Chamber Choir has taken input from the national amateur music performance association Making Music.

Who are Children or Vulnerable Adults?

In this context anyone up to the age of 19 is a child and anyone over 18 years who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation is a vulnerable adult.

How Pinsuti Chamber Choir Operates

Pinsuti Chamber Choir is composed of choir members. Officers are elected and others co-opted to serve on the committee. Rehearsals are run by our self-employed Musical Director or a substitute on occasion. There are neither employed staff nor volunteers in the conventional sense.

Pinsuti Chamber Choir does not advertise itself as an activity suitable for children or vulnerable adults. Most choir members are independent adults. It happens only rarely that a young person or vulnerable adult 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. Pinsuti Chamber Choir is therefore unlikely to be targeted by a person seeking opportunities to abuse children or vulnerable adults. Nonetheless Pinsuti Chamber Choir recognises the need to safeguard any young and vulnerable members and the Committee has therefore agreed the following Safeguarding Policy.

Pinsuti Chamber Choir's Safeguarding Policy

1. Pinsuti Chamber Choir will publicise its Safeguarding policy on its website (<http://pinsuti.org.uk/>) and draw it to the attention of members at the beginning of each season.
2. Young people will be welcome to participate in choral works requiring children

and/or youth voices with Pinsuti Chamber Choir as long as they bring a parent or other responsible adult who remains responsible for them throughout rehearsals and performances.

3. Pinsuti Chamber Choir have nominated a Designated Person, who is CRB-checked and who will attend appropriate training as required.
4. Choir members will report any concerns to the Designated Person. **Detailed Guidance is available from the Designated Person**
5. In the absence of the Designated Person the matter should be brought to the attention of the Secretary of the Pinsuti Chamber Choir. A permanent confidential record will be kept of the report.
6. If Pinsuti Chamber Choir should need to recruit staff, then we will apply safeguarding principles to ensure that appointees are suitable to work with young or vulnerable people.
7. The policy and procedures will be reviewed annually at committee meeting.

Signed by the Secretary on behalf of the Committee.

Alan J Wingfield

Secretary Pinsuti Chamber Choir

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