

## **Arun Young Musicians (AYM)**

The safety, needs & rights of children and vulnerable groups is our priority. All without exception have the right to protection from abuse. All suspicions & allegations of abuse will be taken seriously & responded to swiftly & appropriately. All AYM volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns.

### **AYM Safeguarding Policy**

**Purpose & Function:** The aim of AYM is to give young people of West Sussex and surrounding areas the opportunity to perform music whether as soloists or as part of a group. It strives to offer positive direction and encouragement from experienced musicians, to nurture and strengthen young people's confidence in performance and to help them take their music further whether by pursuing an academic career at a music college or simply advancing a lifelong love of making music

**Environment:** AYM events are held in various public & private venues. They are run solely by volunteers. It is the policy of AYM members to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, a safe environment. We do this by ensuring that a copy of this policy is on our website and that participants receive a copy either through a website link on entry application or as a hard copy if entry is by other means.

**To whom does this policy apply?** The policy relates to children under the age of 18 years and members of vulnerable groups of any age whose needs are identified by parents/guardians/carers and or teachers prior to the event to the organisers. We seek wherever possible to meet those needs but must know beforehand in order to prepare support or to let you know we are unable to help.

**Personnel:** AYM events are staffed by committee members, Rotarians and other volunteers who are known to them. All helpers are clearly identified by a badge and if necessary due to their role also DBS checked and chaperone trained. Anyone wearing a badge may be approached if there is a problem & will be able to direct the enquiry to a person who can deal with it. Any problem will be taken seriously, documented & dated & dealt with discreetly.

**Preparation for attendance at events:** Where parents/guardians/carers are not personally attending with their children this policy requires them to be satisfied that their children will be accompanied & adequately supervised by responsible adults acting on their behalf. Teachers submitting group entries must ensure that parents/guardians/carers receive a copy of this document so they become partners in implementing the policy.

**Performance areas & back stage rooms.** Performance areas are supervised by AYM volunteers. There is a strict policy on access to back stage rooms. Parents, teachers and DBS Checked and Chaperone trained AYM committee members only can enter.

**Photographs:** Photographs for press & publicity purposes will be taken at our events. Where parents/guardians/carers do not wish photos to be taken the responsible adult attending with the child has the duty to ensure the child is not included in the photos.

**The Legislation & Guidance that supports this policy:** The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974; 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 & Court Services Act 2000; The Children Act 2004; The Protection of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006; Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

**Policy Review:** The Committee will constantly review their policy revising & enhancing it as necessary. In doing this we look to the British & International Federation of Festivals for support. That body in turn will look to other agencies for good practice, most notably the NSPCC & Arts Council of England policy guidelines.