

Thornbury Choral Society Child Protection Policy

Thornbury Choral Society fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection. The normal organisation of TCS rehearsals and performances, in large mixed groups, and the absence of residential activities, leads to an inherently low risk of child abuse arising. Nevertheless low risk is not the same as no risk, and although there is no legal requirement for us to have a Child Protection Policy, we feel that it is a matter of good practice to have and to follow such a policy. This policy was agreed by the TCS Committee on 23 June 2008 and will be reviewed periodically to allow for change of personnel or Legislation.

Aims: We aim to :

- 1) Establish a safe environment in which children can enjoy group choral singing, eliminating as far as possible all risk of child abuse.
- 2) Raise awareness of child protection issues within the Society.
- 3) Develop and then implement procedures for identifying and reporting suspected cases of child abuse.

This policy applies to all members of Thornbury Choral Society

Implementation: A Child Protection Group will be chosen by the Committee, to consist of 2 or 3 members who have had training in Child Protection matters and who have had Police DBS checks (previously known as CRB checks, but changes in Legislation mean that DBS checks now extend to all activities undertaken by the person concerned, whereas CRB checks theoretically only applied to the single institution arranging those checks)). They are likely to be persons who have had relevant training and experience in relation to their work in schools. This group will be responsible for keeping a watching brief on all TCS procedures to ensure that they do not put anyone at risk of abuse or anyone at risk of an accusation of abuse. In this context it would generally be inappropriate for children to be alone with a single adult. It is also inappropriate to touch children in any way, other than possibly a congratulatory handshake in appropriate circumstances. The Child Protection Group should also be prepared to deal with any concern reported to them by other members of the Society.

Abuse may consist of neglect or of emotional, sexual or physical abuse. It may be produced by the action of adults but also by other children. Bullying is a form of emotional and often physical abuse. It is important that all TCS members are alert to the possibility that such things can occur, and report any suspicions to a member of the Child Protection Group.

The Society will require a form (see appx. 1) from the parent or guardian of any person under 18yrs, clearly stating whether that child may be allowed to travel to and from home without supervision, and if not to name the person or persons who will be allowed to collect and transport them, giving all relevant contact numbers.

In the event of any concerns by anyone:

- 1) The concerned person should discuss those concerns with a member of the Child Protection Group (CPG)
- 2) The CPG will consider the concerns, will make a written record and may then log a Child Welfare Concern with the Safeguarding Children Service for South Gloucestershire by calling **01454 866000**

Current Membership of the CPG:

- 1) Alison Makepeace
- 2) Kate Phillipson Masters
- 3) David Joyce

Appendix 1

Thornbury Choral Society - Child Travel Arrangements:

Name of Child: Age:

Name of Parent/Guardian:.....

I am happy for my child to travel to and from TCS rehearsal and concerts
on his/her own Yes/No

My child will be brought to and from rehearsals and concerts by one of the
following:

Name	Relationship	Contact number
.....		
.....		
.....		
.....		

In the event that my child is taken ill or any other emergency arises
please contact:..... Tel No

Signed: Date