ALVELEY VILLAGE BAND

SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE.

Alveley Village Band (AVB) is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by taking all reasonable steps to protect them from physical, emotional or sexual abuse and neglect. This applies to all children and young people who attend the band as players or spectators regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, nationality or country of origin.

All members of Alveley Village Band Band should accept a pastoral duty towards the children and young people in our band. It is expected of all members to create an environment where children are listened to and respected. Band members should aim to make the children's experience a happy and fulfilling one. Players, volunteers and committee members, will at all times, show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of the children and young people involved with the band.

The committee will ensure that volunteers working with junior band members know how to recognize and respond to concerns that a child or young person may be abused or neglected.

The committee will appoint, from within its membership, a Safeguarding Officer (SO) with responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. He/she will report annually to the committee on any safeguarding and/or child protection issues and/or any allegations which have arisen over the previous twelve months.

We will review our policies and procedures on an annual basis.

The Child Welfare Officer's duties are:

* To take responsibility for disseminating and implementing Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures within Alveley Village Band Band
* To be familiar with Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) procedures for safeguarding and investigation of child abuse
* To receive information from band members, volunteers, children and young people, parents and carers about child protection issues including any allegations against band members, volunteers or helpers
* To assess information promptly and take appropriate action
* To monitor safeguarding procedures including checking that a parent/carer consent form for every child and young person is completed and stored safely

If a band member is concerned about a child or young person they should immediately inform the Child Welfare Officer. This includes any disclosures from a child/young person. The Officer must accurately record the event giving rise to the concern and if necessary report it to the appropriate bodies. Members of the band including the CWO should not interview the child/young person.

There may be a rare occasion when it is necessary to act quickly, for example, to protect a child or young person from a violent or drunken parent. In these circumstances it would be appropriate to call the Police. In the unlikely event that a child or young person arrives with serious injuries then an ambulance should be called. A record must be kept of any action taken.

AVB will also extend its Safeguarding duties to include ‘vulnerable’ persons, whether band members or relatives of performers attending rehearsals and concerts. A ‘vulnerable’ person is defined as any person regardless of age who has known medical, mental, physical or emotional conditions that may require treatment when attending concerts and rehearsal and the onward passage of information to a next of kin. Each band member will be invited to complete a form notifying the Safeguarding Officer of any such condition that they personally wish to declare, as well as any friend or relative who is not a band member. This information will be retained in strict confidence by the SO and renewed annually or sooner dependant upon the wishes of the individual.

**Confidentiality:**

In cases of disclosure of abuse, whether by children, young people, parents, carers or other adults, we are obliged to share the information with the SO, who, after discussion with The Chairperson may have to refer our concerns to Children’s Social Care.

**Allegations:**

Concerns about the behavior of adult(s) attending band as players, volunteers, parent/carers or guests will be referred without delay to the SO who will, after discussion with the Chairperson, contact the Local Authority Designated Officer in Children’s Services or the Police as appropriate

**Bullying:**

Alveley Village Band believes that any form of bullying is unacceptable.

* We will listen to children and young people and take seriously what they tell us about bullying.
* We will take steps to deal immediately with incidents of bullying.
* We will ensure that children and young people are aware that bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively
* We will be aware of the vulnerability of specific individuals and groups such as those with disabilities and from black and minority ethnic communities
* We will ensure that both victims of bullying and bullies themselves receive support
* We will keep a record of any incidents of bullying, how we dealt with them and whether there is anything the band can do to learn from the incidents

**Positive Behaviour Management:**

Alveley Village Band believes that children and young people thrive best in a positive and supportive environment. We believe that all children and young people have a right to be treated with respect and dignity even in those circumstances where they display difficult or challenging behavior. Therefore we will:

* Ensure a consistent approach to promoting positive behavior and managing unacceptable behavior
* Promote respectful relationships and build children and young people’s self esteem
* Behave in a positive and respectful way when interacting with other adults or children/young people
* Give positive reinforcement and praise whenever possible but tell children and young people when their behavior is inappropriate

**Equal Opportunities:**

Alveley Village Band recognizes that certain groups and individuals are at risk of being unfairly discriminated against for many reasons, including age, appearance, class, colour, criminal conviction, culture, disability, employment status, ethnicity, nationality , political belief, race, religious belief, sexuality or size. Band members, volunteers and committee members will be supported in challenging any behavior or ways of doing things which go against the policy or the spirit of equality of opportunity to participate in all band activities

**Diversity:**

Alveley Village Band recognizes that each child and young person is an individual with their own skills and abilities. We recognize that there is diversity in family life, education, faith and culture. We undertake to embrace and celebrate such differences in ways that make the band inclusive and enjoyable for children and young people. We value and encourage the participation and contribution of individuals, regardless of age, class, disability, ethnic background, faith, gender and sexual orientation

**Mobile Devices and Images of Children and Young People**

All mobile phones and other media devices should be switched off and stored securely during rehearsals and performances. They should only be used on the premises of band activities in the case of an emergency or with prior permission from the committee. Written permission must be obtained from a child or young person’s legal guardian before photographs or video are taken and/or shared for band publicity or any other purpose

**Parents are responsible for collecting their children promptly at the end of band rehearsals.**

**Whilst at rehearsals the children must remain in the school hall or break area (staff room) with the main body of the band.**

**Whilst all members have a pastoral duty of care to the children in the band, the care and welfare of under 18s at concerts and band events is, ultimately, the responsibility of their parents and guardians.**