

## **Bridgnorth Sinfonia Safeguarding Policy**

Bridgnorth Sinfonia (BS), a registered charity, is an amateur orchestra. Although its members are mainly adults some young people (under the age of 16 years) are involved in the activities of BS, usually as players. BS 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.

BS committee are responsible for safeguarding within BS. They will implement the following guidelines. A named Safeguarding Co-ordinator will make him/herself known to any member under 18 and give their parents/guardians a copy of this policy.

BS accepts a duty of care under the following legislation:

Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Child Performance Regulations (1968), the Protection of Children Act (1999), the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act (2000), the Children Acts 1989 and 2004.

BS believes that the welfare of the child is paramount. All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. All members of BS must be clear on how to respond appropriately.

BS will ensure that:

- All children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity
- The welfare of each child will always be put first
- Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism
- Bullying will not be accepted or condoned
- All adult members of the society provide a positive role model for dealing with other people; action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour
- It will keep up to date with health and safety legislation
- It will keep informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children
- It will hold a register of every member under 16 and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

Unless otherwise agreed, parents of children under 14 should bring them to rehearsals and concerts, and collect them at the end. If this arrangement changes and another person is collecting, the Safeguarding Officer must be informed in advance.

No photos of a child will be published without written parental consent and the child is to be consulted.

**Orchestra Members**

No member of BS is allowed to be alone at any time with any child under BS's care during any activity.

No member of the BS should meet with any such child outside the BS's activities, or away from the normal meeting places of BS, unless a parent or other adult approved by a parent is also present.