

Barnes Concert Band - Child/Young Person Safeguarding Policy

Jan 2022 [reviewed annually]

Policy Statement

Barnes Concert Band (BCB) occasionally works with children/young people in education and community settings. Its members are mainly adults, however from time to time, young people (under the age of 18 years) become involved in the activities of the BCB, usually as players. BCB welcomes and actively encourages their involvement, 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. We are committed to the well-being and safety of every child/young person we work with, and this policy outlines the principles we work to.

Principles

In all our community engagement with children/young people we adhere to the following principles:

- The well-being and safety of each child/young person is our primary concern
- We respect the rights of every child/young person we work with
- All children/young people are treated equitably and sensitively
- Relationships between our members and children/young people should be based on mutual trust and respect
- The feelings and concerns of any child/young person or their parent/carer are listened to and acted upon
- All our members have a responsibility to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of any child/young person with whom they come into contact. Any suspicions of abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately

Legal context

BCB uses the term 'child/young person' to refer to anyone under the age of 18, as defined by the Child and Young Persons Act of 1989. The safety of the children/young people we work with is our priority. Although not legally required to do so, we take every reasonable step to ensure a level of care that is comparable to the requirements of the Act.

Good practice guidelines

All people working with BCB should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect themselves from false allegations.

The following are common-sense examples of how BCB can create a positive culture and climate. This policy and these guidelines apply to anyone who works with BCB on a permanent or temporary basis. We:

- Undertake to assess risks at the outset of any project with young people and monitor risks throughout
- Identify the people with designated protection responsibility at the outset
- Know how to get in touch with local authority services, in case there is a need to report a concern to them
- Have agreed procedures for reporting suspicion or allegations of abuse

- Make clear who is responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children/young people. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Daragh Callan, contact via the Secretary barnessec@gmail.com. If there any concerns re the DSL, they should be directed to the Chair, Andrea Lee.

Members and Volunteers will:

- Treat all children/young people with respect
- Be excellent role models for dealings with other people
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- Put the welfare of each participant first, before achieving goals
- Ensure that wherever possible there is more than one adult present during activities
- Respect a young person's right to personal privacy
- Encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like
- Remember that someone else might misinterpret their actions no matter how well intentioned
- Be aware that physical contact with a child/young person may be misinterpreted
- Recognise that special caution is required when discussing sensitive issues with children/young people
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/suspicions of abuse

Members and Volunteers should not:

- Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children/young people
- Allow themselves to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour
- Make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children/young people
- Exaggerate or trivialise child/young person abuse issues
- Show favouritism to any individual
- Take a chance when common sense, policy or practice suggests a more prudent approach
- Meet with any such child/young person outside such activities or away from the normal meeting places of the BCB, without parental knowledge and approval

Information for children/young people, parents/guardians, carers, schools and community workers

BCB recognises that an effective Child/young person Protection Policy requires it to work with parents, teachers and the wider community. BCB's Child/young person Protection Policy will be made available to anyone who would like to read it. It is published on the "Join" page of the Band's website. All members of the Band are required to read and accept this policy each year, as part of the Band's Annual General Meeting process.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints regarding the safety of children/young people and/or the conduct of members towards such children/young people are to be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the first instance. They will then raise it with the Committee as a whole, who will decide what further action should be taken, if relevant. The Committee will then report back to the complainant.