

# Walsall Symphony Orchestra

## Safeguarding Policy

**Background.** Walsall Symphony Orchestra is an amateur community orchestra, registered charity number 117331. It became a Charity Incorporated Organisation in 2017. Its objectives are to participate in and enjoy making music and to arrange concerts several times a year for members to present their music making to a public audience.

**Policy.** The Orchestra only allows children under the age of 18 to attend rehearsals and play in concerts if they are accompanied by their parent or responsible adult.

The Orchestra can accept “vulnerable” adults to attend rehearsals and play in concerts if the vulnerable adult can meet the necessary music standards required in playing their instrument and if the member has identified themselves to the Trustees that they are “vulnerable” ie they have specific health, age, gender, sexual orientation issues that meet the definition of “vulnerable adult”. In the event of this situation arising the Trustees will ensure that the vulnerable adult while attending rehearsals has an agreed plan to support their vulnerabilities.

As at January 2023, the Walsall Symphony Orchestra does not have any members that have identified themselves as vulnerable.

The Orchestra’s Trustees and Committee members do not meet the threshold requirements for requiring DBS checks, nor is there a formal requirement on the Trustees to appoint a WSO Safeguarding Lead. However the Trustees have identified the Secretary to take this role if required. (The Secretary acts as Safeguarding Officer for 2 other charities).

**Procedures.** While attending a rehearsal or playing in a concert, should any member identify a Safeguarding concern occurring during these times, they should speak with the Secretary to advise of the concern and confirm if any action is required. It maybe that the concern should be recorded by the member if the matter needs referring to either the Police or to Walsall Local Authority with responsibility for Safeguarding matters. These authorities will advise the nominated Trustee of any requirements.

The Trustee will not investigate any matters raised themselves. The responsibility is on each individual WSO member to report the matter to the relevant authority. The Trustee’s role is solely to advise on the process required, unless the concern is about the Trustee themselves, in which case the concern should be raised with the Orchestra Chair or another Trustee.

Walsall Adult Safeguarding contact no. 0300 555 2922

Walsall Children Safeguarding contact no. 0300 555 2866

This policy / procedure will reviewed by the Trustees annually.

Signed: Chair of Trustees \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Next Review Date \_\_\_\_\_