



We Are The Voice Safeguarding Policy

Section 1 - The purpose and scope of this policy statement

We Are The Voice environmental choir (WATV) is a children's charity committed to giving children between the ages of **7-16** the opportunity to sing and perform together so that they may raise environmental awareness and express their concerns. It also provides the opportunity for children to develop their confidence, performance, singing and composition skills through a range of activities. As well as weekly rehearsals, the opportunities provided include public performances at a range of venues across the country.

WATV acknowledges it has a responsibility for the safety of children involved in all its activities and wants to provide a safe and secure environment in which children flourish and feel comfortable. It also recognises that good safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures are of benefit to everyone involved with WATV's work.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect all children and young people who receive WATV's services from harm.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working for, or on behalf of WATV, including staff, trustees, volunteers, musicians, parents and students. A child is defined in law as a person up to the age of 18 years. An adult is defined in law as a person aged 18 years and over. The term adult used in this policy refers to people aged 18 years and over.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from [nspcc.org.uk/childprotection](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/childprotection).

Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents.

Section 2 - Responsibilities of the Organisation

We believe that:

children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind

- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take. It is everyone's responsibility and is child centred.
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs, or other issues extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them

- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, and a lead trustee for safeguarding
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures.
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training, and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- making sure that children, young people, and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff, and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person

It is NOT the role of WATV to decide whether a child has been abused or not. This is the task of the local authority social care services. It is however everybody's responsibility to ensure that concerns are shared, and appropriate action take

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on:29/12/2022.....(date)