

Mellor Church Choir

Expectations of behaviour of adults around children and young people

June 2024

These guidelines, adopted by CSG in June 2024 are written to make clear expectations of behaviour of adults (as members of the church choir or those adults associated with the choir) around children and young people (those under 18 years) in the choir.

They have been drawn up at the request of the Vulnerability and Safeguarding team at Chester Diocese in recognition that the choir is a close working culture involving people of a wide scope of ages including a significant number of children and young people.

These guidelines have been approved by the Choir Steering Group, Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC and follow the principles outlined in the Parish Safeguarding Policy – ‘Promoting a Safer Church’ and in accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy. They should be read in conjunction with the national Church of England ‘Code of Conduct’ as they seek to apply this guidance to our specific situation.

Expectations

- To promote a safer environment and culture within the choir by taking our responsibilities around safeguarding seriously in both what we say and what we do.
- To be aware of the risk assessments in place for both usual choir activities in Mellor and for any trips away.
- To complete an enhanced DBS check coordinated by the Parish Safeguarding Officer (Emma Wilson) – this is both for members of the choir and those other adults staying in accommodation with the choir.
- Not to be alone with a child or young person in a room or vehicle: two supervising adults should always be present.
- To respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation and know who to report concerns to.
- To maintain up-to-date training in Safeguarding as requested by the Parish Safeguarding Officer (level depends on responsibility but *everyone* should complete the ‘Basic Awareness’ and ‘Foundations’ modules of the ‘Core Pathways’ online via the Church of England online portal: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php>).
- To share in the responsibility of safe supervision of the children / young people in the choir.
- To only use acceptable language in the presence of children / young people (specifically avoiding use of sexualised, offensive or profane language).
- To moderate the consumption of alcohol as part of choir socialisation and avoid any drunken behaviour.
- Avoid smoking / vaping in front of children / young people.

Contacts

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