

# Alderley Edge Symphony Orchestra

## Safeguarding Adults and Children Policy

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Name of responsible committee	Alderley Edge Symphony Orchestra Committee
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Document Title	Safeguarding adults and children policy
Document purpose	To provide protection for the children and vulnerable adults who are regular or invited members of the Alderley Edge Symphony Orchestra. To provide members with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or vulnerable adult may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

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### 1. Scope of the policy

Alderley Edge Symphony Orchestra is an amateur orchestra. Its members are mainly adults. However from time to time, children (defined as young people under the age of 18 years) or vulnerable adults become involved in the activities of the orchestra.

This policy applies to all registered members of the orchestra and to any additional players that may play with the orchestra on a temporary basis. It is the responsibility of all those associated with the orchestra to act on any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults.

## **2. Equality statement**

Alderley Edge Symphony Orchestra is committed to anti-discriminatory practice. All adults and children involved in the orchestra have equal protection under this policy regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

## **3. What is safeguarding?**

For adults this is defined in the *Care Act 2014* as the duty of local authorities to intervene to protect those who:

- Have needs for care and support
- Are experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- As a result of those needs are unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it

For children this is defined in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010* as the process of:

- Protecting children from maltreatment (abuse or neglect)
- Preventing the impairment of children's health and development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe effective care
- Undertaking that role so as to enable children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully

## **4. Who does safeguarding apply to?**

Adults with care and support needs, such as:

- An older person
- A person with a physical disability, a learning difficulty or a sensory impairment
- Someone with mental health needs, including dementia or a personality disorder
- A person with a long-term health condition
- Someone who misuses substances or alcohol to the extent that it affects their ability to manage day-to-day living

Children:

- Any child (aged under 18) participating in the orchestra

## **5. Forms of abuse**

- Physical: this includes assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, restraint.
- Domestic: this includes psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional and 'honour' based violence.

- Psychological: this includes emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, blaming, controlling, humiliation, intimidation, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation.
- Financial or material: This includes theft, fraud, internet scamming, putting pressure on someone about their financial arrangements, or the misuse or stealing of property, possessions or benefits.
- Sexual: this includes rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, sexual assault or any other act that the adult did not consent to, or any sexual act in relation to a child under 16.
- Modern slavery: this includes slavery, human trafficking and forced labour.
- Discriminatory: this includes harassment or insults because of someone's race, gender or gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.
- Organisational: This includes neglect within an organisation through their structure, policies, processes or practices.
- Neglect and acts of omission: This includes ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs.

## **6. Procedures for raising a concern**

- The priority in responding to any disclosure or concern is the protection of the child/ vulnerable adult.
- If the child/vulnerable adult is in immediate risk of serious harm, then the police must be contacted by telephoning 999.
- In the child/vulnerable adult is not at immediate risk of serious harm, contact a member of the committee.
- A safeguarding referral must then be made to the appropriate local authority by telephoning the contact centre (contact details below).
- If the referrer does not receive a response from the local authority within 24 hours, they must continue to follow this up until a response and appropriate advice is received.

## **7. When children are participating in AESO rehearsals and performances**

- At least two adults must be present at all times
- Rehearsals and instruction must be conducted in groups rather than individually
- Groups of children must not be left unsupervised at any point, even in rehearsal venues

## **8. The role of the committee**

- To approve the AESO Safeguarding Policy
- To review the AESO Safeguarding Policy annually
- To be responsible for ensuring that any safeguarding concerns are reported to the relevant authority
- To put in place any necessary measures to safeguard the child/vulnerable adult within the setting of the orchestra, following a concern being raised

## **9. Local Authority contact details**

Alderley Edge Symphony Orchestra operates within the local authority of Cheshire East. Their contact details for raising a concern are:

- Information line: 0300 123 5500
- Emergencies out of hours: 0300 123 5025
- Social Care Out of Hours: 0300 123 5022