

LITTLE BELTERS POLICY FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN

1. Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that:
“Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatments, maltreatments or exploitation, including sexual abuse while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has care of the child.”
2. **KEY PRINCIPLES**

The key principles on which to base work with children are found in the Children Act 1989 and the UN Convention on the Rights OF THE Child, to which the UK is a signatory.

All children deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential. They should be enabled to:

- Be physically and mentally healthy as possible
- Gain the maximum benefit possible from good quality educational opportunities
- Live in a safe environment and be protected from harm
- Experience emotional well being
- Feel loved and valued, and be supported by a network of reliable and affectionate relationships
- Become competent in looking after themselves and coping with everyday living
- Have a positive image of themselves and secure sense of identity, including cultural and racial identity
- Develop good inter-personal skills and confidence in social situations

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

In order to achieve this level of wellbeing, it is the responsibility of every organisation that works with children to protect them from abuse. There are four categories of abuse:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is defined as hitting, shaking, throwing, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child, or may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve the failure to provide either physical or emotional care.

PROCEDURES

In order to safeguard the children in its care, Little Belters:

- Carries out enhanced DBS checks on all new staff to ensure, as far as possible, that they are suitable to work with children and young people.
- Ensures that all current members of staff have appropriate DBS clearance.
- Have procedures in place in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.
- Has a designated member of staff with responsibility for safeguarding children. The designated person for Little Belters is Tina O'Brien.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the Designated Person to:

- Formulate the choir's child protection policy and make it available to all staff.
- Ensure that all members of staff have read the policy and procedures and understood them.
- Arrange for display of child protection policy on the Little Belters website so that it is accessible to all parents.
- Co-ordinate action in child protection issues.

- Ensure that all staff know who the designated member of staff is and know about the role.
- To follow Little Belters procedures and refer suspected cases of child abuse to the appropriate authorities.
- To maintain records in secure and confidential file.
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of child protection work carried out within the organisation.

It is the responsibility of all members of Little Belters staff to:

- Understand their responsibility for referring child protection concerns using the proper channels.
- Treat the child's welfare as paramount.
- Be alert to potential indicators of abuse and neglect, and to the risks that individual abusers may pose to children.
- Be aware of the effects of abuse and neglect on children.
- Know how to respond to a pupil who may disclose abuse, including providing a written report to the Designated Person.
- Treat any allegation or complaint with respect.

