



Safe Guarding Policy

Implemented from	November 2011
Updated	June 2022
Full Name	Oswestry Town Council – Youth Music Festival
Chairman	Councillor S Kerr
Secretary	David Clough
Treasurer	Roger Dyke
Organiser	Oswestry Town Council, The Guildhall, Oswestry. Telephone 01691 680222
Venues	The Methodist Church, Hermon Chapel & Christchurch URC
Dates	Typically, a 5 day period in March

The safety of the children and members of other vulnerable groups is paramount and all, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately and all the charity's trustees, staff and volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns.

Purpose and Function:

Oswestry Youth Music Festival exists to provide an opportunity for young people (defined as being under the age of 25) to perform and compete in public in a variety of vocal and instrumental forms, from beginner to advanced standard. While the performances are amateur, the advice and comments of professional, accredited adjudicators will provide the forum for encouragement to improve and develop their abilities in music.

The Festival Environment:

The Town Council, as the organising body, seeks to create a caring environment with the highest possible level of protection for children and vulnerable adults. It is our policy to inform and involve parents/ guardians/ carers and teachers in order to ensure, as far as it is practicable, a safe environment at the Festival. Christchurch, the Hermon Chapel and The Methodist Church are within close proximity, are open to the public with public seating and are managed by Festival volunteers.

Preparation for attendance at the Festival:

The syllabus will contain details of the Policy, and the appointment letter will include a declaration that in entering their child for the Festival, parents/guardians/carers agree to its terms.

Copies of the Policy will be provided with details of performance times, with sufficient quantities to allow teachers to pass these on, where a teacher is responsible for the entry or entries. Additional copies will be available during the Festival. This policy document makes it clear to the reader the responsibilities of the festival and of the responsible adult. **A responsible adult will be required to accompany children at all times, and it will not be acceptable to “drop off” children for performance. Stewards will check should they feel any concern about the issue.**

Performance areas:

Rooms set aside at the Hermon Chapel, The Methodist Church and Christchurch for practice/warming up, will be supervised by not less than 2 adults or no adults at all. Toilet areas will not be supervised.

To whom does this policy apply?

This policy will apply to all those associated with organising and running the festival, and all those who will be taking part, together with parents/guardians/carers/teachers without exception. This policy relates to children under the age of 18 years and members of vulnerable groups of any age who are identified to the organisers prior to their arrival at the festival. This should be done by contacting the address or telephone number at the foot of this document. In recognising the needs of children from all ethnic groups and children who are disabled, the festival actively seeks to meet needs notified to the festivals by parents/guardians/carers and/or teachers.

Festival Personnel:

Festival personnel will be drawn in the first instance from those members of the Leisure and Amenities Sub-Committee charged with organising the Festival, and their names and address held by that committee. In the second place, from the members of the Town Council whose Festival this is. Volunteer helpers will be recruited from the community, and according to a brief outlining roles and responsibilities. Volunteers with the Festival for the first time will be subject to assessment by the Leisure and Amenities Sub-Committee. All those whose tasks may bring them into direct one to one contact with children will be expected to be checked through the Criminal Records Bureau or DBS as it is now known. Any complaints will be taken seriously and conducted in private.

The Chairman of the Oswestry Youth Music Festival has nominated Sue Turner as the representative to deal with any complaints relating to Safe Guarding and attended a refresher course on the 6th September.

Photographs Video and Press involvement:

The Local Press will be invited to publicise the Festival. They may or may not attend, but if they do, they will wish to take photographs. Entry into the competition will be deemed to give permission for this general activity. These photographs (subject to copyright consent) may be used to publicise the Festival.

NO photography will be permitted by the public. Stewards may challenge anyone they believe is in breach of this and may require them to leave the area occupied by the Festival.

Finally, the event organisers may choose to take photographs of the winners for event publicity but ONLY with the written consent of the responsible adult and the child involved.

The legislation and guidance that supports this policy:

The Children Act 1989

The Police Act 1997

The Data Protection Act 1998

The Human Rights Act 1998

The Protection of Children Act 1999

The Criminal Justice and Court Services
Act 2000

The Children Act 2004

The Protection of Vulnerable Groups Act
2006

Policy Review:

The organisers will constantly review their policy, improving and enhancing it as necessary. In doing so they will look to The British and International Federation of Festivals for support and that body will in turn look at other agencies for good practice, most noticeably the NSPCC and Arts Council of England policy guidelines

Arren Roberts .
Town Clerk
Oswestry Town Council
The Guildhall
Oswestry
SY11 1 PZ 01691 680222