

Semper Singers – Safeguarding Statement

Semper Singers is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all individuals involved in its activities, including children and vulnerable adults. The law requires organisations working with these groups to take all reasonable measures to minimize risks of harm and to share concerns with appropriate agencies when necessary.

Key Principles

- It is not the role of Semper Singers to determine whether a child or vulnerable adult has been abused. This responsibility lies with statutory agencies such as Social Services or the NSPCC.
- For the purposes of this statement:
 - a) A *child* is defined as anyone under the age of 18.
 - b) A *vulnerable adult* is anyone aged 18 or over who may be unable to care for or protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation.

Who We Work With

While Semper Singers primarily comprises independent adults, there are occasions when children or vulnerable adults may rehearse or perform with us. The choir recognises its responsibility to safeguard these individuals and has therefore implemented the following safeguarding measures.

Safeguarding Officer

The Semper Singers Committee will designate a member or co-opted member as the **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)**. The DSO:

- Will undertake appropriate safeguarding training.
- Will be identified to children and vulnerable adults as the primary contact for any concerns or queries.
- Will have their contact details provided on enrolment forms and the choir's website.
- Currently, the DSO is **Lucinda Cockerill** who can be contacted via **sempersingerschoir@gmail.com**

In the absence of the DSO, concerns should be reported to another member of the committee.

Guidelines for Activities Involving Children and Vulnerable Adults

1. When children or vulnerable adults participate in rehearsals or performances:
 - a. At least two designated adults will be present and responsible for their welfare during rehearsals.
 - b. During performances, parents or guardians will retain responsibility for their children. Where a parent is not in attendance, the designated adults will take on this responsibility.
2. Choir members should avoid situations where they are alone with a child or vulnerable adult.
3. Any safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately to the DSO (or another member of the committee if the DSO is unavailable)

Responding to Safeguarding Concerns

The DSO will:

- Receive and record any safeguarding concerns raised.
- Assess and clarify the information provided.
- Consult with and inform the Chair of the Committee as appropriate.
- Refer the matter to statutory organisations such as local child protection services or the police, as required.
- Store and retain records securely and in compliance with legal requirements.
- Maintain confidentiality, except where information must be shared to ensure the welfare of the individual concerned.

Statement Review

This statement will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains up-to-date.

For more information or to report a concern, please contact our designated safeguarding officer: **Lucinda Cockerill** who can be contacted via **sempersingerschoir@gmail.com**

Helpful Links and Helplines

- **NSPCC Helpline:** For concerns about a child – Call 0808 800 5000 or visit [nspcc.org.uk](https://www.nspcc.org.uk).
- **Childline:** Support for young people – Call 0800 1111 or visit [childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk).
- **Action on Elder Abuse:** For concerns about elder abuse – Call 0808 808 8141 or visit [wearehourglass.org](https://www.wearehourglass.org).
- **Victim Support:** For support with any type of abuse – Call 0808 168 9111 or visit [victimsupport.org.uk](https://www.victimsupport.org.uk).
- **Samaritans:** For anyone in distress – Call 116 123 or visit [samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org).