

PENWORTHAM YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
Implemented from 3rd November 2005

CHAIRMAN: Revd. Nick Mansfield
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR: Philip Walsh
CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER:
TREASURER: Susan Range

1. PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF THE ORGANISATION

The purpose of the Penwortham Youth Music Festival (PYMF) is for children to have the opportunity to present their musical talent, regardless of standard, before an audience and to be adjudicated in an informal and friendly manner so as to encourage their enthusiasm and progress.

2. THE FESTIVAL ENVIRONMENT

It is the policy of the PYMF to inform and involve parents, guardians, carers and teachers in partnership to create as far as is reasonably practicable, a safe environment at the Festival for all who attend the event. The venues will be advertised in the current syllabus.

3. TO WHOM DOES THIS POLICY APPLY

This policy relates to children under the age of 18 and those vulnerable adults of any age, who are identified to the Festival Director prior to their arrival at the Festival.

4. FESTIVAL PERSONNEL

Festival personnel are volunteers and will be recruited on the basis of personal recommendation or invitation of the Committee. Festival personnel will provide their names and permanent addresses, which will be kept by the Committee in a confidential file. All Festival personnel will wear identifying badges. In case of a problem, anyone wearing a badge may be approached and will be able to direct children or adults to someone who will be able to help. All problems will be taken seriously, documented and dated.

5. PREPARATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE FESTIVAL

The Festival is not a childcare organisation in the full meaning of the Protection of Children Act 1999. Parents, guardians, carers and teachers and those in charge of groups are reminded that they are the primary carers, and the safety and good behaviour of all children is totally their responsibility while attending the festival. If parents or guardians are unable to attend the Festival, they must satisfy themselves that their children are properly supervised by another responsible adult acting on their behalf. Penwortham Youth Music Festival personnel are not permitted to take on this role.

PYMF CHILD PROTECTION POLICY continued

6. PERFORMANCE AREAS AND CHANGING AREAS

The Festival endeavours to provide the most suitable performing and changing facilities. Participants should endeavour to arrive ready to take part in their class without having to change. Where a change of clothing is necessary, children must be supervised by a parent, guardian or carer who must make this known to a steward who will arrange for private changing accommodation to be made available. Penwortham Youth Music Festival personnel will not take on the role of a supervisor.

7. PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOTAPES AND PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY

Unauthorised photography and recording of any kind is not allowed during performances. Appointed press photography will be permitted only by prior arrangement with the Festival Director. Permission will be asked of Parents/ Guardians or Carers if present for their child to be photographed by the press. Alternatively, they may give written consent on the Official Entry Form. In the case of Choirs, bands or ensembles, consent must be notified to the conductor.

8. THE LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE THAT SUPPORTS THIS POLICY:

The Children's 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, Children Act 2004. The Lancashire Area Child Protection Committee – Child Protection Procedures.

9. POLICY REVIEW

The Penwortham Youth Music Festival Committee undertakes to treat every problem seriously, to document it and follow it through. This Policy will be reviewed annually. In doing this, the Festival will look to the British and International Federation for support, and that body in turn will look to other agencies for good practice, most notably the NSPCC and the Arts Council of England policy guidelines.