

Safeguarding Policy

Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band



Date adopted: April 2026

Review date: April 2027

1. Policy Statement

Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band is a mixed-age community brass band. It is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk who participate in our activities. We aim to provide a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment where everyone can enjoy making music without fear of harm, abuse, bullying or neglect.

This policy aligns with Brass Bands England (BBE) BandSafe expectations and good practice. It applies to all band members, volunteers, committee members, those employed by the band (ie, Musical Director) and anyone acting on behalf of the band.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all rehearsals, concerts, contests, workshops, trips, social events and any other activity organised by the band. It covers all members of the band, including adults, children and young people, as well as volunteers and helpers.

As a mixed-age band, we recognise that safeguarding arrangements must reflect the presence of both adults and under-18s, and that some adult members may be considered adults at risk due to care and support needs.

3. Definitions

Child or Young Person: Anyone under the age of 18.

Adult at Risk: An adult aged 18 or over who has care and support needs and may be unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect.

Safeguarding: The action taken to promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk and protect them from harm.

4. Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy is informed by UK legislation and guidance, including the Children Act 1989 and 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children, the Care Act 2014, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the Data Protection Act 2018.

The band also follows guidance provided by Brass Bands England through the BandSafe programme.

5. Safeguarding Principles

Safeguarding principles are that:-

- The welfare of children, young people and adults at risk is paramount
- Everyone has the right to equal protection from harm regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

- All concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon promptly

6. Safeguarding Roles

The band has appointed a Safeguarding Officer and a Deputy Safeguarding Officer.

Safeguarding Officer: Samantha Sharp

Contact details: 07931 234231

Deputy Safeguarding Officer: Joanne Lane

Contact details: 07557 767159

Deputy Safeguarding Officer: Claire Briggs

Contact details: 07977 955881

Conductor: Michael Priestley

Contact details: 07554 345570

The Safeguarding Officer is responsible for receiving concerns, maintaining records, and liaising with external agencies where necessary. The deputy will fulfil this role in their absence.

7. Code of Conduct

All members and volunteers must:-

- Treat others with respect, dignity and courtesy
- Always maintain appropriate boundaries
- Avoid being alone with a child or adult at risk wherever possible
- Use appropriate language and behaviour
- Never bully, intimidate or discriminate
- Use social media responsibly in relation to band activities

8. Safer Working Practices (BandSafe Aligned)

To meet Brass Bands England BandSafe expectations, the band will:-

- Ensure activities involving under-18s are appropriately supervised
- Require parental consent for under-18 members
- Avoid one-to-one situations with children or adults at risk where possible
- Ensure under-18s are not left unsupervised at rehearsals or events
- Consider DBS checks for roles involving regular, unsupervised contact with children or adults at risk
- Carry out risk assessments for band activities and events

9. Photography, Video and Use of Images

The band recognises that photographs and video recordings may be taken during rehearsals, concerts and events for promotional, archival or social purposes.

The band will take reasonable steps to ensure that photography and video recording are managed sensitively and in a way that respects the welfare, dignity and privacy of all members.

It is recognised that when the band is performing in public spaces, it is not always possible to control photography or filming by members of the public. The band will make reasonable efforts to manage this where appropriate but cannot guarantee that images will not be taken by third parties.

10. Recognising Abuse

Abuse may include physical, emotional, sexual or financial abuse, neglect, bullying or harassment. Concerns may arise from observations, disclosures or changes in behaviour and must always be taken seriously.

11. Responding to Safeguarding Concerns

If a safeguarding concern arises:-

1. Listen and reassure the individual
2. Do not promise confidentiality
3. Record the concern as soon as possible
4. Report immediately to the Safeguarding Officer

If someone is in immediate danger, emergency services must be contacted straight away.

A Safeguarding Concern Flowchart is included in Appendix 1

12. Confidentiality and Data Protection

Safeguarding information will be handled sensitively, shared only on a need-to-know basis and stored securely in line with data protection legislation.

13. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required due to changes in legislation, guidance or band activities.

Safeguarding Concern Flowchart – Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band

