

# STORTFORD YOUTH CHOIRS (SYC)



## Member, Parent, Carer, and Guardian Code of Conduct & Behaviour Policy

Contact: [info@stortforyouthchoirs.com](mailto:info@stortforyouthchoirs.com)

Safeguarding Lead: Josie Cowley

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### I. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Stortford Youth Choirs provides a safe, respectful, inclusive, and positive environment where all members can enjoy making music, develop their skills, and feel valued.

This policy sets out the expected standards of behaviour for choir members and outlines the responsibilities of staff, volunteers, parents, and guardians.

### 2. Who This Policy Applies To

This policy applies to:

- All members of Stortford Youth Choirs
- Choir directors, staff, and volunteers
- Parents and guardians, in supporting their children

### 3. Core Values

Stortford Youth Choirs is committed to:

- Respect for all individuals
- Kindness, teamwork, and cooperation
- Safety and wellbeing
- Responsibility and commitment
- Inclusivity, equality, and fairness

## **4. Expected Behaviour of Choir Members**

### **Respect and Conduct**

Choir members are expected to:

- Treat fellow singers, staff, and volunteers with kindness and respect
- Listen carefully and follow instructions from choir leaders
- Use appropriate language and behaviour at all times
- Respect differences in ability, background, identity, and beliefs

### **Participation and Commitment**

Choir members should:

- Arrive on time and be ready for rehearsals and performances
- Take part positively and try their best
- Let choir leaders know in advance if they cannot attend
- Take care of music, uniforms, venues, and choir property

### **Safety**

All members must:

- Follow safety instructions given by staff and venue supervisors
- Stay within designated areas during rehearsals, breaks, and events
- Report accidents, injuries, or concerns to a choir leader straight away

## **5. Unacceptable Behaviour**

The following behaviours are not acceptable at Stortford Youth Choirs:

- Bullying, teasing, harassment, or discrimination of any kind
- Physical, verbal, or emotional aggression
- Disruptive behaviour that affects rehearsals or performances
- Inappropriate language, gestures, or materials
- Damage to property or theft
- Possession or use of prohibited items

## **6. Online and Digital Conduct**

When representing Stortford Youth Choirs online or using digital platforms:

- Communicate politely and respectfully
- Do not share personal information without permission
- Do not post photos or videos of others without consent
- Follow choir guidance on social media and digital communication

## **7. Behaviour Management and Consequences**

If a choir member does not meet expected behaviour standards:

1. A reminder or warning will be given
2. Continued concerns may lead to a discussion with the singer
3. Parents or guardians may be contacted
4. Serious or repeated misconduct may result in temporary or permanent removal from Stortford Youth Choirs

All actions will be fair, proportionate, and focused on learning and improvement.

## **8. Role of Staff and Volunteers**

Staff and volunteers will:

- Act as positive role models
- Treat all members fairly and consistently
- Follow safeguarding and child protection procedures
- Address behaviour concerns promptly and appropriately

## **9. Safeguarding and Welfare**

Stortford Youth Choirs is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people.

- The Safeguarding Lead is Josie Cowley
- Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to a choir leader or directly to the Safeguarding Lead
- Concerns will be managed in line with safeguarding policies and referred to appropriate authorities where necessary. Please refer to our separate Safeguarding Policy for further information

Please continue over the page to sign off your agreement to the policy. You will also find a child-friendly version for younger children, which you can read through with your child ahead of them joining Stortford Youth Choirs.

## **10. Agreement and Sign-Off**

[Choir Member Agreement](#)

I understand the Behaviour and Conduct Policy of Stortford Youth Choirs and agree to follow it to the best of my ability.

Choir Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Parent / Guardian Agreement

I have read and discussed the Behaviour and Conduct Policy of Stortford Youth Choirs with my child. I agree to support the choir in encouraging positive behaviour and adherence to this policy.

Parent / Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## ✿ Stortford Youth Choirs – Our Choir Rules

*(Child-Friendly Version)*



This section is for our younger singers.

At Stortford Youth Choirs, we want everyone to feel happy, safe, and proud to sing together.

#### Our Choir Rules

- Be kind and respectful to everyone
- Listen carefully when the choir leader is speaking
- Try your best and join in
- Put your hand up if you need help
- Look after our music and our rehearsal spaces
- Use kind words and actions

#### We Do Not Allow

- Bullying or being unkind
- Interrupting rehearsals on purpose
- Hurting others or their belongings

#### Staying Safe

- Stay with the group
- Follow instructions
- Tell a grown-up if something worries you

If you're unsure or unhappy, you can always talk to a choir leader. We are here to help 