



THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR OF GREAT BRITAIN SUPERVISION POLICY

The children in the National Children's Choir of Great Britain are aged 9 – 15, and the Senior Choirs, aged 13– 19. These choirs currently consist of 180 members, divided as follows:

National Children's Choir Junior Choirs 142

National Children's Choir Senior Choirs 38

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Staffing:

All members of NCCGB staff are CRB checked. They receive appropriate briefing and training in the safeguarding of children prior to courses.

The number of staff varies from course to course and is dependent on the number of children attending. Currently members of staff are drawn from the attached list (Appendix D)

Contact procedures:

At the beginning of each course, every member of staff is given a list of all staff mobile numbers, so that proper communication is available between the various working groups within the choir.

Activities:

When on a course, NCCGB activities can be split into four categories:

1. Rehearsal/performance/singing lessons
2. Recreation
3. Meal times/break times

4. Boarding house/night time

1. Rehearsal/performance/singing lessons

Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals are supervised by the conductor in charge, supported by the pianist. In addition, there are pastoral carers on call at all times.

Sectional rehearsals

These smaller groups are supervised by a conductor/singing teacher. In addition there are pastoral carers on call at all times.

Concerts/performances

For these more major events, all members of staff are present.

Singing lessons

These are individual/small group lessons, given by the singing teachers. Again there are pastoral carers on call at all times.

Should it prove necessary for choir members to cross a road, or other area in use by vehicles, in order to move from one activity to another, a pastoral carer is on duty at all times to accompany them and ensure their safety.

It is the responsibility of the Director, with the support of the Head of Pastoral Care, to ensure that adequate supervision is in place at all times during these activities.

2. Recreation

Recreation takes place twice daily (1.15 – 2.30 p.m. and 7.00 – 8.30 p.m.) and is led by Recreation staff, supported by the pastoral care team. A number of activities are enjoyed during the Recreation periods, for example:

Quizzes	Cabaret	Tennis
Ball games (indoor & outdoor)	Walk to the park	Swimming
Cake making (no cooking involved)	'Movie night'	'Party night'

Supervision during these activities depends on the number of children involved and the nature of the activity. However, at any activity involving girls there will be at least one female member of staff present. Any activity involving the use of changing rooms will involve a minimum of one male and one female member of staff. Any activity which involves going off-site will be supervised by a larger number of staff, employing the support of the music staff. Each proposed activity during a course is subject to a risk assessment. Activities chosen vary from course to course, depending on the facilities available. Should swimming be an option, a qualified lifeguard is employed together with the NCC staff. At no time are hazardous activities (climbing, quad biking, etc.) undertaken.

It is the responsibility of the Head of Pastoral Care, reporting to the Director, to ensure that adequate supervision is in place at all times during these activities.

3. Meal times/ break times

During meal and break times, staff eat with the children. Primary responsibility for safety and behavior lies with the pastoral and recreational staff; however all members of staff contribute at these times.

4. Boarding house/night times

Female pastoral and recreational staff, together on occasion with some female music staff, sleep (in separate rooms) in the same areas as the female children. Male children are supervised by male recreation and pastoral members of staff, similarly accommodated, who are supported by the Head of Pastoral Care. All children are advised of a designated member of staff to whom they should speak in case of a night time emergency. It is the responsibility of the Head of Pastoral Care to ensure that children are aware of their designated member of staff, and in the absence of that member of staff to provide proper supervision.

Boarding houses are supervised at all times that any member of the choir is present, either during the day, due to illness, or at night.

Touring

The National Children's Choir occasionally goes on tour. Supervision during the tour period falls within the 1:10 guideline ratio.

SENIOR CHOIRS: DULCE CORUM, DULCE CORUM TRAINING CHOIR AND SENIOR BOYS' CHOIR

All members of staff involved in Senior Choirs' courses have received CRB clearance. The same contact procedures are involved as for the National Children's Choir.

Members of the senior choirs range in age from 13 – 19. For those members aged under 18, the same supervision procedures will be observed as for the National Children's Choir. However their recreational activities are not as wide ranging as those for the NCC, since they work more hours in the day.

Members age 18 and over have legal status as adults, and this is recognized in the Senior Choirs Policy & Guidelines (Appendix B). They are however given support by the Head of Pastoral care, and are asked to adhere to guidelines regarding safe and sensible behavior as a condition of their membership of the group.