



Canterbury Cathedral Youth Choir (CCYC) - Well-being & Pastoral Support Statement (Ages 7–11)

Purpose and Scope

This statement outlines how Canterbury Cathedral Youth Choir (CCYC) supports the well-being and emotional development of children aged 7–11 during weekly rehearsals. It applies to all staff, chaperones and children involved in the CCYC programme.

At Canterbury Cathedral Youth Choir (CCYC), we believe that children thrive musically when they feel safe, supported and valued. Our aim is to provide a positive, nurturing environment where children feel confident to take part, build friendships, and grow in both skill and self-belief.

This Well-being & Pastoral Support Statement sits alongside the CYC Code of Conduct, the Choir Attendance Policy, the Choir Behaviour Policy, the Choir Mobile Phone Policy, and the Cathedral Safeguarding Policy. It explains how children's emotional welfare is supported during weekly rehearsals.

Our Commitment to Well-being

We are committed to creating an environment that is:

- Kind, inclusive and respectful;
- Safe and supportive for all children;
- Encouraging and confidence-building;
- Calm, structured and consistent;

We recognise that children come from different backgrounds and bring different experiences, emotions and needs into the choir space. All children are treated with dignity and care.

We are committed to inclusion and accessibility and will work in partnership with families to support children with additional needs or disabilities, ensuring they feel safe, included and able to participate fully.

Leadership and Pastoral Roles

Musical leadership and weekly session delivery are led by the Choir Director (Helen Brookes), supported each week by two dedicated chaperones.

The Choir Director is the first point of contact for children requiring pastoral support during rehearsals and is responsible for managing the immediate pastoral response within each session.

The Chorister Welfare Lead (Kelly-Jayne French) holds strategic oversight of well-being and pastoral practice and attends sessions on a regular rota, providing guidance and support to staff and chaperones as required.

Where additional or ongoing support is required, the Choir Director will liaise with the Chorister Welfare Lead to ensure appropriate next steps are taken.

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How We Support Children in Practice

We support children by:

- Offering calm reassurance and encouragement;
 - Helping children who feel nervous, unsettled or overwhelmed;
 - Supporting positive friendships and group relationships;
 - Encouraging respectful behaviour through guidance and boundaries;
 - Allowing children time and space to adjust and settle;
- We understand that children develop confidence at different speeds and respond differently to group environments.

When a Child Is Upset or Struggling

If a child becomes upset or distressed during a session:

- A trusted adult will offer calm support;
 - The Choir Director will manage the immediate pastoral response;
 - Parents will be contacted if further support is needed;
 - Where appropriate, the Chorister Welfare Lead will be informed;
- Low-level concerns (for example, friendship issues, nervousness, or minor emotional upset) are managed within the session by the Choir Director. Recurring or more significant concerns will be shared with the Chorister Welfare Lead for oversight.
- All concerns are handled sensitively, respectfully and proportionately.

Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

We believe children's well-being is best supported when families and staff work together. Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- Share any relevant information that may affect their child's well-being;
 - Communicate any worries, changes or additional needs;
 - Speak with the Choir Director in the first instance if their child feels anxious, unsettled or is struggling;
- The Choir Director is the first point of contact for weekly pastoral matters. The Welfare Lead provides additional oversight and support where needed.

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Recording and Safeguarding

Canterbury Cathedral Youth Choir operates under the Canterbury Cathedral Safeguarding Framework. Any safeguarding concern will be passed promptly to the Cathedral Safeguarding Officer (CSO) in line with statutory guidance and Cathedral policy.

Welfare and safeguarding concerns are recorded in line with Cathedral procedures. CPOMS is being introduced as the central system for recording welfare and safeguarding information, with oversight provided by the Chorister Welfare Lead.

Well-being, Behaviour and Participation

CCYC operates in line with the Choir Attendance Policy, the Choir Behaviour Policy, and the Choir Mobile Phone Policy. These provide the agreed framework for participation, conduct and safe use of mobile devices within the choir setting.

Well-being support complements these policies. Behaviour concerns are approached supportively, with the aim of helping children understand expectations, develop self-regulation and grow in confidence.

Our Promise to Children

At Canterbury Cathedral Youth Choir:

- You will be listened to;
- You will be treated with kindness and respect;
- You will be supported if you feel worried or upset;
- You will be encouraged to do your best in a safe and welcoming space;

This Well-being & Pastoral Support Statement will be reviewed annually, or sooner if required.

The Canterbury Cathedral Youth Choir (CCYC) is provided by the Singing Partnerships Programme at Canterbury Cathedral (Charity No. 1206913), and kindly funded by a grant from [The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral \(Charity No 1210093\)](#).

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