

# **Blewbury Brass Band: Social Media and Online Technologies Policy**

This policy was approved by Blewbury Brass Band's committee on 12 October 2024. It closely follows the Brass Band England ("BBE") sample policy found in its BandSafe resources pack and which was drafted in partnership with the NSPCC and funded by the Arts Council.

## **Guidelines on social media and online technologies**

Blewbury Brass Band ("BBB") recognises that the internet provides unique opportunities to promote the band including vacancies and performances using a wide variety of social media. It is also recognised that online platforms can provide the means to make teaching, webinars, rehearsals and events accessible when direct, face to face contact may be difficult for all or some participants. Nonetheless the use of social media and online technologies can also present safeguarding risks that need to be mitigated as far as possible. These guidelines aim to protect individuals within the band and to encourage them to take responsibility for what they write, exercise good judgment and common sense. Inappropriate use of social media can pose risks to a band's reputation, and can jeopardise compliance with legal obligations. The guidelines also aim to enable BBB to take advantage of the many opportunities offered by online technologies whilst at the same time remaining committed to the safeguarding of members and others.

BBB official social media groups should be agreed in advance by the committee and have a nominated individual who will be responsible for monitoring it and moderating its content.

## **BBB website and social media pages**

Permissions must be checked prior to posting images of band members on official websites and social media pages. This permission can be obtained through the membership form. Be clear on the consent form about what the images are to be used for, how long they will be kept, and the fact that they will be stored and, in due course, disposed of securely. Personal details such as phone numbers and email addresses should not be posted on the internet. It is important to consider the age range of band members when posting images, and comments on pages and ensure that these are appropriate and in keeping with BBB's ethos.

## **Use of electronic communication with children, young people and adults at risk**

Communication by electronic means or by texting will not be used with children under the age of 18. Leaders, staff and volunteers should not share their personal phone numbers with anyone under 18. All communication in these forms will be via their parents/carers. The rest of the principles relate to group communication or to individual communication with adults at risk and young adults aged 18 and over. The key point is that communication should be in a context of transparency and accountability.

- Electronic communication should only be used for reasons relating to BBB business and not for general socialising purposes
- Leaders, staff and volunteers should not invite young people and adults at risk to their personal social networking page and should politely decline requests from any young person under the age of 18, explaining that this is BBB policy
- Where possible, email and messaging should take place to and within groups rather than individuals
- Webcams will not be used where an online platform is used for one to one conversations
- The principles for the use of social media will be communicated to children, young people and adults
- Any content which raises a safeguarding concern should be reported to the BBB Safeguarding Officer using the procedure outlined in the band's Safeguarding Procedures.

## **Annual Review**

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was adopted on: 12 October 2024