

WEST SUSSEX GUITAR CLUB
("The Club")
HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

NOTE TO ALL VOLUNTARY HELPERS

The success of this policy will depend on your co-operation. It is therefore important that you read this document carefully and understand your role and the overall arrangements for health and safety.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Our policy, so far as is reasonably practicable, is to provide and maintain safe and healthy conditions, equipment and systems of work for all our voluntary helpers, and to provide such information, training and supervision as they need for this purpose.

We will also endeavour to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all members of the public, visitors and others who may visit the West Sussex Guitar Club (WSGC) and any associated buildings.

The policy will be kept up to date, particularly in the light of any changes to our buildings or activities. To ensure this, the policy and the way in which it has operated will be reviewed annually and the appropriate changes made.

In order to ensure that health and safety matters are kept constantly under review, voluntary helpers will be consulted on a regular basis in order to seek their views on health and safety matters.

Signed
Chairman


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West Sussex Guitar Club

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHAIRMAN

Overall responsibility for health and safety is that of the Chairman, who will ensure that arrangements are in place to satisfy Health and Safety Regulations and appropriate Codes of Practice. His telephone number is 01243 779574.

RESPONSIBILITY OF VOLUNTARY HELPERS

All voluntary helpers have a responsibility to co-operate in the implementation of this health and safety policy and to take reasonable care of themselves and others whilst on WSGC premises.

Voluntary helpers must therefore:-

- (a) Comply with safety rules, operating instructions and working procedures;
- (b) Use protective clothing and equipment when it is required;
- (c) Report any fault or defect in equipment immediately to the appropriate person;
- (d) Report all accidents (however minor), injuries, near misses or other potential safety hazards as soon as possible and;
- (e) Not misuse anything provided in the interests of health and safety.

1. ACCIDENTS AND FIRST AID

FIRST AID boxes are located in:

The kitchen – on the left hand wall, half way down

ACCIDENT BOOK is located in:-

The lobby within the Log Book under "Comments Section"

All accidents and incidents are to be entered in the Accident Book. In addition, if thought necessary, the Police, Health and Safety Executive, or Environmental Health Officer may be informed.

2. FIRE SAFETY

(a) Fire Extinguishers

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS are kept in the following locations:-

One in the lobby behind the Notice Board

One at the back left hand corner of the Recital Hall

If a fire is discovered:-

Immediately RAISE THE ALARM and, where required:

Telephone the emergency services - **999**

Check the building for occupants

Attack the fire, if possible using the appliances provided, but without taking personal risk

Evacuate to the Designated Assembly Point, which is situated outside the main entrance door.

Ensure clear access for the emergency vehicles

(a) Evacuation Procedures

In the event of an emergency (fire/bomb threat, etc) an announcement to leave the building is to be made by the person in charge of the building at the time.

Evacuation Drills

Voluntary helpers should ensure that they are familiar with escape routes and emergency exits and ensure that these are kept clear and unobstructed at all times.

3. ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Misuse and abuse of electricity is a significant cause of fire and injury. All voluntary helpers must observe the following:-

- Visually check all electrical equipment before use ● Report all faults immediately to the Chairman
- Do not attempt to use or repair faulty equipment
- No electrical equipment is to be brought onto the premises and used unless approved by the Chairman
- Electrical equipment should be switched off and disconnected when not in use for long periods
- Flexible cables should be so positioned and so protected that they do not constitute a tripping hazard and are not subject to mechanical damage

4. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

If at all possible hazardous substances should not be used. Where this is not possible, such substances should be kept safely stored and isolated from those not concerned with their usage.

5. SAFETY OF PLANT AND MACHINERY

- (a) Voluntary helpers must not operate plant or machinery that they are not trained and authorised to use.
- (b) Any defect and damage found to any item of plant or machinery must be reported to the Chairman.

6. SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

Any potential hazard must be reported to the Chairman.

7. LIGHTING

In order to ensure that the building is adequately lit, any defects must be reported to the Chairman.

8. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In almost all cases of children entering the premises, they will be accompanied by responsible adults. Young children ie Children under 12 years, are not allowed on the premises unless accompanied by a responsible adult. For guidance, voluntary helpers

should study WSGC'S Child Protection policy. WSGC reserves the right to refuse entry should any doubt exist.

March 2015

Reviewed 7th September 2024, January 2026