

Constitution of The Faringdon Singers

1. Name

The name of the organisation shall be **The Faringdon Singers** (hereafter “the Choir”).

2. Purpose

The Choir exists to:

- Promote the enjoyment, performance, and appreciation of choral music within Faringdon and the surrounding community.
- Provide opportunities for amateur singers of all voice parts (SATB) to rehearse, learn, and perform together.
- Encourage musical development, community participation, and inclusive access to the arts.
- Present concerts, events, and outreach activities for the benefit of the public.

The Choir is a non-profit, voluntary organisation.

3. Membership

3.1 Eligibility

Membership is open to anyone aged 18 or over who:

- Has an interest in choral singing
- Supports the aims of the Choir
- Is willing to participate in rehearsals and performances

No audition is required unless agreed by the Committee for specific musical reasons.

3.2 Subscriptions

- Members shall pay a termly subscription, the amount to be set by the Committee and approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Concessions may be offered at the Committee’s discretion.
- Non-payment of subscriptions without explanation may result in membership being suspended.

3.3 Conduct

Members are expected to:

- Attend rehearsals regularly
- Respect fellow singers, volunteers, and musical staff
- Contribute positively to the Choir's community spirit

The Committee may suspend or terminate membership for serious misconduct, after fair discussion with the member concerned.

4. Musical Direction

4.1 Musical Director (MD)

- The Choir shall appoint a Musical Director to lead rehearsals, select repertoire, and conduct performances.
- The MD may be paid or voluntary, as agreed by the Committee.
- The MD works in partnership with the Committee but retains artistic authority over musical matters.

4.2 Accompanist

- The Choir may appoint an accompanist under terms agreed by the Committee.

5. Management and Committee

5.1 Committee Structure

The Choir shall be managed by a Committee consisting of:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Additional members (e.g., Membership Secretary, Publicity Officer, Librarian, Social Coordinator) as appointed.

5.2 Election and Term

- Committee members are elected at the AGM for a term of one year.
- All officers may stand for re-election.

- Vacancies during the year may be filled by Committee appointment until the next AGM.

5.3 Committee Responsibilities

The Committee shall:

- Manage the Choir's finances and administration
- Support the Musical Director
- Organise concerts, events, and rehearsals
- Ensure compliance with safeguarding, data protection, and health & safety requirements
- Represent the interests of the membership

5.4 Meetings

- The Committee shall meet at least three times per year.
- Decisions are made by simple majority; the Chair has a casting vote.

6. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

6.1 Timing

An AGM shall be held once each calendar year.

6.2 Business of the AGM

- Receive reports from the Chair, Treasurer, and Musical Director
- Approve the annual accounts
- Elect Committee members
- Set membership subscription rates
- Consider motions submitted by members

6.3 Notice

Members shall receive at least 14 days' notice of the AGM.

7. Finance

- All funds shall be used solely to further the Choir's aims.
- The Treasurer shall maintain accurate accounts and present them annually.

- The Choir's bank account(s) shall require two authorised signatories for payments.
- No member shall receive payment for services except for legitimate expenses or contracted musical roles.

8. Safeguarding and Welfare

- The Choir shall adopt appropriate safeguarding policies, especially when working with young people or vulnerable adults.
- A designated Safeguarding Lead may be appointed by the Committee.

9. Data Protection

- The Choir shall comply with relevant data protection legislation.
- Personal data shall be used only for Choir administration and communication.

10. Amendments to the Constitution

- Amendments may be made at the AGM or at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).
- Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing at least 14 days in advance.
- Amendments require a two-thirds majority of members present.

11. Dissolution

If the Choir must be dissolved:

- A resolution shall be passed at an EGM by a two-thirds majority.
- Any remaining assets shall be donated to a local music-related charity or community arts organisation, as decided by the membership.
- No assets shall be distributed to members.