

# Stage One Youth Theatre Safeguarding Policy

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Stage One Youth Theatre recognizes its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968, the Protection of Children Act 1999 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

The society recognises that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. The company is committed to practice which protects children from harm, All the members of the society accept and recognise their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.

The society believes that:

- \* The welfare of the child is paramount.
- \* All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- \* All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- \* All members, employees or voluntary staff should be clear on how to respond appropriately.

The society will ensure that:

- \* All children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity.
- \* The duty of care to children will always be put first.
- \* A balanced relationship based on mutual trust will be built which empowers the children to share in the decision making process.
- \* Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism.
- \* Bullying will not be accepted or condoned.
- \* All adult members of the society provide a positive role model for dealing with other people.
- \* Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour.
- \* It will keep up to date with health and safety legislation.
- \* It will keep informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children.
- \* It will hold a register of every child involved with the society and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

The society has child protection procedures which accompany this policy. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the society's Equal Opportunities Policy and Health and Safety Policy.

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The society has a dedicated Child Protection Officer, who is in charge of ensuring that the child protection policy and procedures are adhered to. That person's name is

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Mr Stephen Clark.....and he/she can be contacted on

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02392370056.....  
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This policy will be regularly monitored by the Committee and will be subject to annual reviews.

Date last reviewed: March  
2018.....  
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## Child Protection Procedures

### Responsibilities of the Society

At the outset of any production involving children the society will:

- \* Undertake a risk assessment and monitor risk throughout the production process.
- \* Identify at the onset the person with designated responsibility for child protection.
- \* Engage in effective recruitment of chaperones and vetting ( if necessary in consultation with the local education authority).
- \* Ensure that children are supervised at all times.
- \* Know how to get in touch with the local authority social services, in case it needs to report a concern. The information is kept within the members folder for reference.

### Parents

- \* The society believes it to be important that there is a partnership between parents/ carers and the society. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the activities of the society and to share responsibility for the care of children. All parents will be given a copy of the society's Child Protection Policy and procedures.
- \* All parents have the responsibility to collect (or arrange collection of) their children after rehearsals or performances. Any child deemed old enough to be making their own way home should have written permission from their parent and the society be informed. It is NOT the responsibility of the society to take children home.

### Unsupervised Contact

- \* The society will attempt to ensure that no adult has unsupervised contact with children.

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- \* If possible there will always be two adults in the room when working with children.
- \* If unsupervised contact is unavoidable, steps will be taken to minimize risk. For example, work will be carried out in a public area, or in a designated room with a door open.
- \* If it is predicted that an individual is likely to require unsupervised contact with children, he or she may be required to obtain a criminal record disclosure.

### Physical Contact

- \* All adults will maintain a safe and appropriate distance from children.
- \* Adults will only touch children when it is absolutely necessary in relation to the particular activity.
- \* Adults will seek the consent of the child prior to any physical contact and the purpose of the contact shall be made clear, for example attaching microphones or assisting with costumes.

### Managing sensitive information

- \* The society has a policy and procedures for the taking, using and storage of photographs or images of children.
- \* Permission will be sought from the parent/carer for use of photographic material featuring children for promotional or other purposes.
- \* The society will ensure confidentiality in order to protect the rights of its members, including the safe handling, storage and disposal of any sensitive information such as criminal record disclosure