

## **New Forest Players Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**

1. New Forest Players Amateur Dramatic Society recognises 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.
2. The society is committed to practice which safeguards and protects children from harm.
3. The society believes that:
  - 3.1. the welfare of the child is paramount;
  - 3.2. all children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse;
  - 3.3. all suspicions and allegations of abuse should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
  - 3.4. all members of the society should be clear on how to respond appropriately.
4. The society will ensure that:
  - 4.1. all children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity;
  - 4.2. the duty of care to children will always be put first;
  - 4.3. enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism;
  - 4.4. bullying will not be accepted or condoned;
  - 4.5. action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour;
  - 4.6. it will keep informed of changes in legislation and policies for the safeguarding and protection of children; and
  - 4.7. 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.
5. The society has safeguarding and child protection procedures which accompany this policy.
6. This policy will be monitored by the Committee of the society and will be subject to periodic review.

**Date: July 2020**