

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING POLICY

REVIEWED: 16/05/2024

Centre Stage Productions, in association with The Manx Gilbert & Sullivan Society registered charity number 406 (the "Society") recognises its duty of care under the Performance by Children Regulations 2004 pursuant to the Education Act 2001.

The Society recognises that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical, emotional, and sexual or neglect. The Society is committed to the practice that protects children from harm.

As a society we believe that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, sender, language, racial orient, religious belief 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 and production team members of the Society 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 & 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.

In the Theatre the Society will ensure:

- Separate girls' and boys' dressing rooms are provided. Dressing rooms will be supervised by people known as chaperones appointed by the Society.
- Admission to the Theatre and dressing rooms will be strictly limited; female chaperones only will be admitted to the girls' changing room, but mothers may enter the boys' dressing room. The Society will not accept any responsibility for supervising toilet and communal facilities.

The Society will have dedicated Safeguarding Officers, who are in charge of ensuring that the child protection policy and procedures are adhered to.

This policy is regularly monitored by the Committee of the Society.