

Sudbury Dramatic Society Safeguarding Policy

Sudbury Dramatic Society 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 recognizes that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. The society is committed to practice which protects children and vulnerable adults from harm. All members of the society accept and recognize their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children and vulnerable adults harm. The society believes that:

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount.
- All children and vulnerable adults, 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 and employees of the society should be clear on how to respond appropriately.

The society will ensure that:

- All children and vulnerable adults will be treated equally and with respect and dignity.
- The duty of care to children and vulnerable adults will always be put first.
- A balanced relationship based on mutual trust will be built which empowers the children and vulnerable adults 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 and vulnerable adults.
- It will undertake relevant development and training.
- It will hold a register of every child and vulnerable adult involved with the society and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

The society has safeguarding procedures which accompany this policy. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the society's Equality & Diversity Policy and Health & Safety Policy. 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 Sara Knight and she can be contacted on 01787 372564 or davsara@btinternet.com. If you are worried that a child, young person or adult is at risk of abuse, harm or neglect, please call [Customer First](#) on **0808 800 4005**. Customer First is the initial point of contact for social services in Suffolk.

This policy will be regularly monitored by the Committee of the society and will be subject to review in line with all SDS policies. This policy was last reviewed in October 2018.