

Wells Little Theatre – Child Protection Policy

Wells Little Theatre recognises its duty of care with regard to the following:

- Children and Young Persons' Act (1963)
- Child (Performances) Regulations (1968)
- Protection of Children Act (1999)
- 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 society is committed to practices, which protect children from harm and all members of the society accept and recognise their responsibilities to be aware of these issues. The society believes that the welfare of the child is paramount and that all children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse'

The society will:

- Take all suspicions and allegations of abuse seriously and respond swiftly and appropriately to any that arise
- Ensure that all members of the society are clear on how to respond appropriately
- Ensure that all children are treated equally and with respect and dignity and support their inclusion in the society
- Develop the children's performing skills through constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- Not accept bullying in any shape or form and will take action against any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour
- Provide positive role models
- Keep up to date with health and safety regulations
- Keep informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children
- Undertake relevant development and training
- Hold a register of every child involved with the society
- 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 be read in conjunction with the society's Equal Opportunities Policy and Health and 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.

Contact Name: Doreen Grant

Contact Telephone Numbers: 01749 671275/07855056577

Email – doreenpow52@aol.com dgrant@somerset.gov.uk Jan09

