

HD&OS

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Hertford Dramatic and Operatic 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. A child is defined as a young person under the age of 17 and remains of compulsory school age until the last Friday in June *following* their 16th birthday.

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 practice which protects children from harm. All 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 reported to the delegated officer.

The society will ensure that:

- all children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity;
- the welfare of each child is the first consideration;
- bullying will not be accepted or condoned;
- action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour.

The society will

- undertake relevant development and training in Child Protection issues;
- 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
- have a Health & Safety Policy.

An annual risk assessment will inform Child Protection Procedures.

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 Penny Coyston (tel.no. 01992 537 440).