

## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Masque Players Amateur Dramatic Group (“the Group”) recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968, the Protection of Children Act 1999, the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, and the Children Acts 1989 and 2004.

The Group recognises that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. The Group is committed to practice which protects children from harm. All members of the Group accept and recognise their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.

The Group 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 will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;
- All members of the Group must be clear on how to respond appropriately.

The Group will ensure that:

- All children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity;
- The welfare of each child 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 Group provide a positive role model for dealing with other people; action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour;
- It will be kept up-to-date with health and safety legislation;
- It will be kept up-to-date with changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children;

- It will hold a register of every child involved with the Group and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

The Group has safeguarding procedures which accompany this policy.

The Group has a dedicated Safeguarding/Child protection Officer, who is in charge of ensuring that the safeguarding policy and procedures are adhered to.

That person's name is: Gary J Sharman

and he/she can be contacted on: 01473 610300

This policy will be regularly monitored by the Production Team of the Group and will be subject to annual review.

Date : 30/09/09

REVIEWED: 11/10/12 : NO CHANGES TO POLICY NEEDED.

SIGNED: 

Reviewed 8/02/15 : No Comments

Signed: 