

**EXETER DRAMA COMPANY**  
**CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY**

**A child** in this policy is defined as *anyone under the age of 18.*

**A Vulnerable Adult** is defined in accordance with The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) Order 2002 as *a person aged 18 or over who has a condition of the following type:*

- (i) a substantial learning or physical disability;*
- (ii) a physical or mental illness or mental disorder, chronic or otherwise, including an addiction to alcohol or drugs; or*
- (iii) a significant reduction in physical or mental capacity.*

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

The company 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 taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All members of the company should be clear on how to respond appropriately.

The company 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 company 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 undertake relevant development and training.
- 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.

The company has child protection procedures which accompany this policy. The company 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 Ian Guy and he can be contacted via Exeter Drama Company.

This policy will be regularly monitored by the Executive Committee of the company and will be subject to annual review.

Date reviewed and updated: 18th July 2022

Original Date policy implemented: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015