

Ockley Dramatic Society **Child Protection Policy**

Ockley Dramatic Society recognizes its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963 and the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968. Ockley Dramatic Society recognizes that abuse can take many forms, whether it is physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. Ockley Dramatic Society is committed to practice which protects children from harm. All members of The Society accept and recognize their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.

Ockley Dramatic 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 will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All members of Ockley Dramatic Society must be clear on how to respond appropriately.

Ockley Dramatic Society 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, which can include verbal abuse, will not be accepted or condoned.
- All adult members of Ockley Dramatic Society will provide a positive role model for dealing with other people.
- Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour.
- Ockley Dramatic Society will keep up to date with health and safety legislation.
- Ockley Dramatic Society will keep the members informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children.
- Members of Ockley Dramatic Society will hold a register of every child involved with any of their productions and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

Ockley Dramatic Society will elect a Child Protection Officer for each production involving children and this officer will ensure that the child protection policy and procedures are adhered to. The child/parents/carers will be advised of the name of the officer and how this officer can be contacted. This is in addition to any nominated chaperones for each production

This Policy will be reviewed annually by Ockley Dramatic Society committee.