



“Up-Stage” Child Protection Policy

AIMS OF “UP-STAGE”

The aim of “Up-Stage” is to provide a platform for the performance of music, song, speech and drama by amateurs of all ages and abilities in a competitive but friendly atmosphere. We encourage and maintain high standards but always with enjoyment in mind.

POLICY STATEMENT

“Up-Stage” recognises its duty of care towards children and young people. We are committed to practice which protects children from harm. Information contained in this document will help to create an understanding and direction for members, friends, parents, children and young people involved in “Up-Stage”. The Group seeks to create a caring environment (with the highest possible level of protection for children and others to whom this Policy applies). The Policy will inform and involve parents in order to ensure, as far as it is reasonably practicable, there will be a safe environment at all “Up-Stage” functions.

TO WHOM THIS POLICY APPLIES

This Policy relates to anyone under the age of 18, and to those vulnerable persons of any age who are identified to the Child Protection Officer. It will be read, understood and agreed by ALL members of “Up-Stage” and ALL persons involved in an “Up-Stage” Production.

“UP-STAGE” WILL ENSURE THAT:

- all children will be treated with respect and dignity
- enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism
- bullying will not be accepted, condoned or tolerated
- full contact details will be held for all adult volunteers and where they are working in sensitive areas with children or vulnerable adults, details of these helpers have been processed and cleared by the Criminal Records Bureau, or relevant letters signed.
- All adult volunteers are aware of the importance of listening carefully to any disclosures made by a child/young person/vulnerable adult. Any problem will be taken seriously and will be documented and dated and reported to the group’s child protection officer. Copies of all documentation will be retained in Group records.

There is a Code of Conduct which accompanies this policy, which must be read and understood by all adult volunteers in the group.

“Up-Stage” has a dedicated Child Protection Officer, who is in charge of ensuring that the policy and procedures are adhered to. This is also the person to whom you must report any allegations of abuse. This person is also required to keep records of such instances and will keep CRB disclosure information and declaration forms of adult volunteers. The person’s name is Kate Westwick and she can be contacted on 01582 513208.

THE LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE THAT SUPPORTS THIS POLICY

The Children Act 1989, The Police Act 1997, The Data Protection Act 1998, The Human Rights Act 1998, The Protection of Children Act 1999 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

POLICY REVIEW

“Up-Stage” will constantly review their Policy, improving and enhancing it as necessary. In doing this they will look to other agencies for good practice, most notably the NSPCC and Arts Council of England policy guidelines.

All Members are fully aware of and support this Child Protection Policy.