



Policy for Safeguarding of Children

Policy Review Schedule

Date of previous Policy Review:	June 2023
Suggested Date for Review:	June 2024

1.0 Purpose

- To protect children and young people within The Lowestoft Players from harm.
- To provide members as well as children and young people with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection

The Lowestoft Players acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, 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 and The Children Acts 1989 and 2004, government guidance and complies with best practice and industry requirements.

This policy applies to all members of The Lowestoft Players.

2.0 We recognise that:

The welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. We acknowledge that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

We aim to ensure that regardless of age, culture, ability or disability, gender, racial origin, religious belief, sex or sexual identity or socio-economic background, all children

- Have a positive and enjoyable experience of performing arts at The Lowestoft Players in a safe and child centred environment
- Are protected from abuse whilst participating in performances and rehearsals or outside of the activity.
- Will be treated equally and with respect and dignity.

3.0 The Lowestoft Players believes that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

4.0 The Lowestoft Players will ensure that:

- Enthusiastic and constructive feedback is given rather than negative criticism.
- Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour.
- Bullying will not be accepted or condoned;
- All adult members provide a positive role model for dealing with other people;
- We avoid any inappropriate physical contact with children.
- We do not show favouritism to any individual child.
- The welfare and safety of each child will always be put first.
- It will hold a register of every child involved and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies;
- Children, young people and their families know about the safeguarding and child protection policies and what to do if they have a concern.
- Members understand their responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and are provided with appropriate learning opportunities to undertake training so they recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- Support children's right to privacy, including the misuse of photographic images, video and social media.
- Appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.
- Confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- They prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals.
- Robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.
- Members are informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children.
- The society has **Safeguarding of Children Practice and Procedures**, which accompany this policy.

This policy and the **Safeguarding of Children Practice and Procedures** will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in The Lowestoft Players. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

This policy should be read alongside other Lowestoft Players Policies/ Practice and Procedures and Guidance notes

- Safeguarding of Children Practice and Procedures
- Photography and Filming policy
- Health & Safety Policies
- Risk Assessments

The Lowestoft Players **Safeguarding of Children Lead**, [REDACTED] can be contacted on [REDACTED]

This policy will be reviewed annually or in the following circumstances;

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance;
- As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board;
- As a result of any other significant change or event.