

The Carnon Downs Drama Group Child Protection Policy.

Carnon Downs Drama Group is committed to providing a safe environment where children and adults can come to enjoy working together to produce high quality amateur productions. To enable us to continue to do this, our Child Protection Policy and Procedures sets out in detail how both adults and children are expected to act while we are together.

The Policy is first and foremost to protect children from harm, but it is also there to give adults firm guidance and to protect them from accusations. It is also to protect the Groups reputation as a safe place for children and adults. Everyone in the group must be committed not only to be aware of the content of these documents, but also to ensure that they and their fellow members carry out the actions within them at all time.

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

The Carnon Downs Drama 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 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

The Group believes that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, 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 Group should be clear on how to respond appropriately.

The Group is committed to maintain and promote a practice that:

- All children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity.
- The duty of care to children is paramount.
- Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism.
- Bullying will not be accepted or condoned.
- All adult members of the Group will, at all times, act as positive role models when 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 relating to the protection of children.
- It will undertake relevant development and training.
- It will hold a register of every child involved with the Group and will retain a contact name and telephone number close at hand in case of emergencies.

