



## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

All adults under the aegis of WMTC coming into contact with children or young people (aged 16 and under) must comply with its Child Protection Policy and Code of Behaviour.

WMTC accepts that in all matters concerning child protection the welfare and protection of the child is the paramount consideration. It is the policy of WMTC to safeguard the welfare of children and all others involved in its activities by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

WMTC have authorised Chaperones approved by WSCC and CRB checked

**All** adults involved in WMTC activities are required to follow the Code of Behaviour. They must also be familiar with the steps to be taken in the event of becoming aware of, suspecting or receiving allegations of abuse.

Any child who comes into contact with WMTC for more than just the odd occasion needs to have explained to them their right to talk to an independent person (a designated WMTC member). This can be linked to the responsibilities the child has with WMTC and therefore need not be threatening.

Adults against whom allegations of such offences have been made and which appear well founded will be immediately denied access to children in the course of WMTC activities even though they may not have been convicted of relevant offence. The General Committee will investigate the allegation and report and act accordingly. Any person so accused does of course have the right of appeal against any decision taken.

All adults will be expected to sign the attached Code of Behaviour signifying that they have read this policy to which they will adhere. The Secretary will maintain the relevant register.

### **If you suspect a child is being abused.**

1. Inform the Chairman immediately
2. Record the facts as you know them and give a copy to the Chairman.
3. Ensure that the child has access to an independent adult and can provide the name, address and telephone number of the independent adult.
4. Ensure that no situation can arise which could cause any further concern.

### **If a child discloses to you abuse by a third party.**

1. Allow the child to speak without interruption and accepting what is said.
2. Alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation whilst passing no judgement
3. Advise the child that you will try to offer support but that you must pass the information on.

### **If you receive an allegation about yourself or another adult**

1. Inform the Chairman immediately.
2. Record the facts as you know them and give a copy to the Chairman.
3. Try to ensure that no person is placed in a position which would cause further compromise.

## **CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**

- Ensure, where children are involved in rehearsals or other activities that they involve more than one other person being present or at least in sight of hearing of others.
- Respect a young person's right to privacy.
- Provide access for young people and adults to feel comfortable enough to point out attitudes or behaviours they do not like and to provide a caring atmosphere.
- Remember that someone else may misinterpret your actions no matter how well intentioned.
- Do not have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others.
- Do not jump to conclusions about others without checking facts.
- Do not exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues.
- Do not make suggestive remarks or gestures
- Do not get close to or have physical contact with a young person without clearly explaining what you are doing.



**WORTHING MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY** Registered Charity No. 1166054

**Please sign below.**

I have read, understand and agree to adhere to the Child Protection Policy of the Worthing Musical Theatre Company.

Name

Signature

Date