

WOODCHURCH PLAYERS POLICY FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS.

Woodchurch Players Amateur Dramatic group provides a duty of care to all those who wish to perform. The welfare of the children and young people is paramount, and we are committed to ensuring that our safeguarding policy, procedures and practice reflects the statutory responsibility, government guidance and complies with best practice and performing arts requirements.

The Players aim to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religious beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background all are welcome and will be respected.

It is important that all those taking part in performances have a positive and enjoyable experience and that the children and young people will experience a safe child-centred environment.

Woodchurch Players have eight KCC trained chaperones to cover performances on a rota basis. Any form of abuse will not be tolerated, and the players reserve the right to dismiss anybody who causes harm to another person. Chaperones have to renew their licences every three years. Roles are clearly defined, and these are expected to be adhered to.

Any concern raised should not be investigated by any person but taken to the lead safeguarding person who will decide whether to report it onto a statutory agency or not. Concerns will be recorded in a safeguarding book in case further action should be necessary. All disclosures/complaints will be treated as serious and acted on appropriately.

There are four Red Cross first aiders in attendance. Any first aid incidents must be recorded in the accident book.

Risk assessments will be carried out in the main hall and dressing rooms before each performance. Special attention will be made to hot drinks and wine glasses being carried from the kitchen into the hall during intervals.

The use of special effects will also carry a risk assessment and will be completed by the technical crew.

At no time will photographs or video recordings be allowed. Members of the cast and crew are no exception. The only phones that will remain on are chaperones and first aiders on duty for each performance. KCC guidelines state that under 18's should hand in their phones on arrival and have them handed back at the end of the performance. From now on there will be no exceptions. It will be the responsibility of the chaperones on duty to make sure this happens.

The toilets are at the back of the hall used as a dressing room so there is no need for chaperones having to escort to and from toilets UNLESS someone needs the toilet in the kitchen area when waiting to go onto stage. In this case two chaperones are to escort to the toilet area.

On arrival and at the end of rehearsals and performances parents will be asked to sign in and out their child/ren. Unless it has been arranged by a parent beforehand no child will be handed over to somebody we don't know.

Dressing Room etiquette

Children and young people will have their own dressing room with screened off areas for boys and girls.

They will not leave the dressing room for anything other than going on stage.

Under no circumstances will anybody other than chaperones on duty be allowed into the dressing room. There are no exceptions.

The Adults dressing room will be screened off when the younger performers are joining them to go onto the stage.

In order that everybody has a wonderful experience Woodchurch Players ask that all performers behave in a respectful and courteous manner.

Ann Tiplady
Safeguarding Lead

27/04/23