



## **SHARNBROOK AMATEUR THEATRE TRUST SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

### **Policy statement:**

The Sharnbrook Amateur Theatre Trust (SATT) recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young Person's Act 1963, the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968, the Protection of Children Act 1999 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000. This is a duty to safeguard all children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in the arts activities. The Safeguarding and Child Protection Guidelines adopted by the Sharnbrook Amateur Theatre Trust provide clear direction to staff and volunteers about expected codes of behaviour, the development of good practice and sound procedures. This ensures that child protection concerns may be handled sensitively and professionally in ways to support the needs of the individual.

### **Policy aims:**

#### **Sharnbrook Amateur Theatre Trust believes that:**

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount
- All children or vulnerable adults, regardless of their age, culture disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/all sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be reported swiftly and appropriately.
- All members and employees of SATT should be clear on how to respond and reassure victims of abuse that they are being taken seriously and will be well supported.

**SATT will ensure that:**

- All children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity.
- The duty of care to children will always be put first.
- A balanced relationship based on mutual trust will be built which empowers the children to share in the decision-making process.
- Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism.
- Bullying or peer on peer abuse will not be acceptable or condoned.
- All adult members of SATT must adhere to the Sharnbrook Amateur Theatre Trust code of behaviour and should provide a positive role model for dealing with other people.
- Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour.
- It will always promote online safety.
- It will keep up to date with health and safety legislation.
- It will keep informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children.
- It will undertake relevant development and training.
- It will hold a register of every child or vulnerable adult involved with the Society/production/workshop and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

SATT has safeguarding procedures which accompanied this policy. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the society's Equal opportunities policy and health and safety policy.

SATT has two Designated Safeguarding Leads (Monika Byrne and Sophie Nixon), who ensure that the child protection policy and procedures are adhered to.

This policy will be regularly monitored by the committee of the Sharnbrook Amateur Theatre Trust and will be subject to annual review.