

Dunstable Rep Theatre Club

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Dunstable Rep Theatre Club including Young Rep (hereafter called **DRTC**), 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.

DRTC recognises that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. **DRTC** is committed to practices which protect children (including vulnerable adults) from harm. All members of the club accept and recognise their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause such harm.

DRTC believes that:

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount.
- All children or vulnerable adults, whatever their age, culture, disability, 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 reported swiftly and appropriately.
- All members and employees of **DRTC** should be clear on how to respond and reassure victims of abuse that they are being taken seriously and will be supported.

DRTC 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 accepted or condoned.
- All adult members of **DRTC** must adhere to the Dunstable Rep Theatre Club - Code of Behavior and should provide a positive role model for dealing with other people.
- Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behavior.
- It will always promote Online Safety.
- It will keep up to date with health & 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 club and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

DRTC has Safeguarding Procedures which accompany this policy. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the society's Equal Opportunities Policy and Health & Safety Policy.

The society has a dedicated Safeguarding Coordinator, who ensures that the child protection policy and procedures are adhered to. That person's name is Anthony Bird and they can be contacted on 07985 730807 alternatively Dave Houghton, and they can be contacted on 07803 781392

This policy will be regularly monitored by the Committee of the club and will be subject to annual review.

Date of first publication: 16/10/22

Last reviewed: 30/10/22

Adopted at the committee meeting dated: 30/10/22

Date of next review: 15/10/2023