

GOSFORTH AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY CHILD PROTECTION POLICY – JUNE 2011

Legislation

Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society (GADS) recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Children (Performances) Regulations 1968, the Protection of Children Act 1999, all subsequent amendments and all other relevant legislation.

GADS will comply with the legislation by maintaining its approval as a “Body of Persons” by the Local Authority (Cumbria County Council) under Section 37(3)(b) the 1963 Act, and by complying with all conditions attached to the approval.

GADS will be proactive in making its members aware of, and enforcing, this policy and its associated procedures.

Principles and Application

The society recognises that abuse can take many forms, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. The society is committed to practices which protect children from harm. All members of the society must recognise and accept their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.

The society believes that:

- The welfare and safety of the child are paramount.
- All children, 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 taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All adults directly involved with children should be clear on how to respond appropriately.

Through its Executive Committee, the society will ensure that:

- All children are treated equally and with respect and dignity.
- A balanced relationship based on mutual trust is built.
- Enthusiastic and constructive feedback is given rather than negative criticism.
- Bullying is not accepted or condoned.
- All adult members of the society provide a positive role model.
- It undertakes relevant development and training.
- It nominates a Child Protection Officer, who is in charge of ensuring that the child protection policy and procedures are adhered to.
- It keeps up-to-date with relevant legislation.
- It reviews its child protection policy and procedures annually.
- It maintains its “Body of Persons” approval.
- It regularly monitors child protection matters, including compliance with the conditions attached to the “Body of Persons” approval.

On the advice of the Child Protection Officer, the Chairman of the Executive Committee will immediately suspend any individual member as necessary, but also ensure that they are treated fairly, with respect and in confidence.

Signed:

(Committee Chairperson)

Date:

June 2011