



Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures for Denstone Players Amateur Dramatic Society

Denstone Players Amateur Dramatic Society abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

- We recognise the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents and carers is essential in promoting children's welfare.

Purpose

Denstone Players Amateur Dramatic Society will protect from harm children and young people involved in any activities organised by Denstone Players Amateur Dramatics Society.

This policy applies to all members, volunteers and visitors who are involved in activities organised by Denstone Players Amateur Dramatic Society.

Definitions

The Children Act 1989 definition of a child is: anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

Child Abuse: Children may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse within their family or harm outside of the family. There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse and neglect.

Safeguarding children:

Safeguarding children is:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health and development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcome.

Designated safeguarding lead:

The designated safeguarding person (DSP) within our organisation is Vivienne Edwards.

As safeguarding lead, additional training has been completed:

- Staffordshire E learning Level1 Awareness: Safeguarding Children and Protecting them from abuse. Stephen Leake, the Society's Health and Safety Officer, has also successfully completed this training.

Contact details

Email address	vivaedwards@btinternet.com	
Telephone number	07775 748658	01889 590681

If the Designated Safeguarding Person is unavailable, Deputy Safeguarding person for our organisation is:
Mary Driver

Contact details

Email address	sisalcat@aol.com	
Telephone number	07714928813	

The DSP will advise members, volunteers and visitors on best practice and expectations. They will be responsible for the monitoring and recording of safeguarding concerns and for ensuring all concerns are shared with the appropriate statutory authorities.

County Approved Chaperones

Ian (Dave) Shooter and Vivienne Edwards are approved Chaperones with Staffordshire County Council. Other Society members are applying for this status.

All members and volunteers of Denstone Players should have knowledge of the safeguarding policy and procedures and their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

Members and volunteers will be made aware of this through

- Reference to the Safeguarding Policy on the Denstone Players Website www.denstoneplayers.com
- Hard copies available on request
- A hard copy on the Denstone Players notice board in the village hall.
- Safeguarding training for the child supervisors required for any productions involving children and young persons. All members and volunteers who have direct contact with children and young people are required to hold a DBS disclosure.
- Parents and carers will be advised of the Safeguarding policy and procedures at the beginning of each production. They will be advised where they can access the Safeguarding Policy.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people means:

Protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of a child's health and development, ensuring that children are growing up with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to ensure that children have the best life chances.

At Denstone Players Amateur Dramatic Society we will endeavour to do this by:

- Identifying and responding to concerns about a child or young person
- Providing a safe and happy performing environment
- Supporting development through performing in a way that fosters a sense of belonging, self-confidence, community and independence
- Developing a balanced relationship based on mutual trust which empowers the children and young people to share in the decision making process.
- Encouraging development through enthusiastic and constructive feedback.

Consent and Information Sharing

A consent form for performances and photography for shows and social media are issued for each event. Personal information is confidential. It will only be shared with the permission of the parent or carer unless the disclosure of confidential, personal information is necessary to protect a child or promote their welfare.

Child Protection – Reporting Abuse

Child protection is part of safeguarding children and promoting welfare. It refers to activity that is undertaken to protect children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

See appendix

- a) Definitions of abuse
- b) How to recognise abuse
- c) Managing a disclosure from a child

It is the responsibility of all members and volunteers at Denstone Players to take reasonable steps to protect children and young people from harm and abuse while involved in any activities organised by Denstone Players Amateur Dramatic Society.

Any concern about a child's welfare should immediately be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Person.

Referring a concern

The DSP will refer concerns or allegations of harm to Children's Social Care or the police as appropriate. If the DSP is in any doubt, information should be shared with Children's Social Care for a second opinion. It is not the role of the DSP to investigate only to collate information, clarify details of concern and facilitate information sharing. In the absence of the DSP, the individual who has the concern is responsible for contacting the children's social care and the information should be shared with the DSP retrospectively.

Recording and Record Keeping

A written record must be kept about any safeguarding concerns. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decisions made and why they were made.

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support (SCAS)

0300 111 8007

8.30am – 5.00 pm Monday to Thursday

8.30am - 4.30 pm Friday

Or EDS (out of hours) Tel No 0345 604 2886

Or email: eds.team.manager@staffordshire.gov.uk

Non-emergency – call Staffordshire Police on 101

If you believe the child to be at risk of immediate harm, this must be reported to the police 999 or 101.

Allegations against members or volunteers

If any Denstone Player member has concerns about another member or volunteer at Denstone Players Amateur Dramatic Society such as

- Believing they have behaved in a way that has harmed or may cause harm to a child.
- Behaved toward a child in a way that indicates they are unsuitable to work with children.

The allegation or concern should be reported immediately to the Chair of Denstone Players – currently David Shooter who has the responsibility for dealing with allegations.

The designated manager will report the matter to Staffordshire's Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Contact details for the LADO - Staffordshire

Freephone: 0800 1313 126

8.30am – 5.00 pm Monday to Thursday

8.30am - 4.30 pm Friday

Email: firstr@staffordshire.gov.uk

In an emergency, outside office hours telephone 0845 6042 886

The Safeguarding Referral Team (SRT) 01782 235100

Our Code of Conduct

At Denstone Players Amateur Dramatic Society, we will make every effort to protect children from harm when they are attending any of our activities. We will do this by:

- Ensuring all members and volunteers have knowledge of the Safeguarding Policy
- Provision of training for members and volunteers
- Ensuring all members and volunteers who are responsible for the direct supervision of children or young people during rehearsals and performances, hold a current DBS disclosure.
- Taking all reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety and welfare for all those who access our organisation.
- Ensuring good reporting to the Designated Safeguarding Person and onward to children's social care wherever we suspect harm.
- Fostering an environment of good communication, transparency and mutual trust and respect.

Review and Update

We will review our safeguarding policy and procedures on a regular basis to make sure they are still relevant and effective.

Date of last review: 4th December 2023

Signed: *V. Edwards* (Designated Safeguarding Person)

Signed: *D. Shooter* (Chair of Denstone Players)