

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

St Austell Amateur Operatic Society (AOS) recognizes its duty of care to its members, performers, backstage, front of house, audience and supporters.

That duty of care is especially important in relation to young people. This policy is based on safeguarding principles that are informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child, relevant legislation and guidance, and by the society's values, behaviours and understanding of best practice

The society recognizes that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. The society is committed to practice which protects children from harm. All members of the society accept and recognize their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.

The society believes that:

- The welfare of the child is 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 members and employees of the society should be clear on how to respond appropriately.

The society 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 will not be accepted or condoned.
- All adult members of the society provide a positive role model for dealing with other people.
- Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour.
- 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 involved with the society and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

The society has child protection procedures which accompany this policy. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the society's Photography Policy and Privacy Policy for Children in our Productions & their Parents/Guardians and Equal Opportunities Policy.

The society has a dedicated Child Protection Officer, who is in charge of ensuring that the child protection policy and procedures are adhered to. That person's name is **Rachel Capelin** and she can be contacted on **0746 093 4334**.

This policy will be regularly monitored by the Committee of the society and will be subject to biennial review.

POLICY HISTORY

Policy Date	Summary of Change	Contact	Ratified Date	Implemented Date	Review Date
07/08/2016	New Policy	Chair	24/08/2016	24/08/2016	August 2017
18/07/2017	No changes	Chair	09/08/2017	-	August 2018
18/07/2018	No changes	Chair	01/08/2018	-	August 2019
19/07/2019	No changes	Chair	13/08/2019	-	August 2020
14/07/2020	No Changes	Chair	19/08/2020	-	August 2021
15/07/2021	No Changes	Chair	11/08/2021	-	August 2022
15/07/2022	Changed to biennial review	Chair	15/08/2022	15/08/2022	August 2024
01/07/2024	Regulations and policies updated	Governance Lead	05/08/2024	05/08/2024	August 2026