



15.11.2024

Policy Statement & Aims

Kingsclere Players is an amateur theatrical group committed to providing a safe and secure environment in which everyone can come together voluntarily to create drama and to promote a climate where everyone will feel confident about sharing any concerns which they may have about their own safety or the well-being of . Kingsclere Players welcomes the inclusion of children into their productions, and as such are committed to providing an environment that is safe and welcoming for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

We believe that

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- The society should be clear on how to response to allegations

Responsibility of Kingsclere Players

To ensure that every child who takes part in a production is welcomed, encouraged and adequately supervised as detailed below.

Responsibility of Parents/Guardians

To have read, understood and agreed to the Kingsclere Players Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and given signed consent for their child to take part in productions.

To fill out and sign all permission forms in the Child Performer Pack as necessary before rehearsals begin once their child is cast.

Guidance when working with children and young adults

We Will endeavour to ensure that:

- All children will be treated equally with respect and dignity
- The welfare of each child is paramount
- A balanced relationship based upon mutual trust will be built

- Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism
- Bullying will not be accepted or condoned
- All adult members of the Players provide a positive role model for dealing with other people
- Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate behaviour verbal or physical behaviour
- The Players will keep up to date with health and safety legislation making changes as needed and when updated
- The Players will hold a register of every child involved and will retain a contact name and number in case of emergencies
- The Players will allocate only local authority approved Chaperones for the children who will then attend all rehearsals and performances - and a list of these will be made available.

Environment

- A minimum of two local authority approved chaperones present for each rehearsal and performance with a maximum of 16 children. Children will be informed of who these chaperones are.
- Chaperones/known volunteers must stay with a child if they are not collected after a rehearsal/performance, and must undertake to contact the parents/guardians of the child so arrangements can be made to see them home safely.
- There should be no unsupervised contact with a child by an adult.
- There should be no physical contact with a child except where necessary and in context ie. costume fitting, make up etc
- Children and adult changing areas will be separate with gender segregation
- No photography shall be permitted in the changing areas
- Children must seek permission before leaving the rehearsal area
- All children to be signed in and out of every rehearsal and performances with contact details added

Police Checks

Those working primarily with children and young people to be subject to an enhanced DBS check either from their employment or other voluntary organisation. This will be reviewed yearly and any additional or renewed necessary checks will be made as required or when a production requires child/young people actors/performers.

Kingsclere Players have a number of members who have a current enhanced or Voluntary DBS.

All Chaperones who are part of Kingsclere Players have an up to date local authority approved chaperone licence.

Photography/videoing and the Internet

With increasing concerns about the risks posed by the internet to children and young people through the use of social media and photographs on websites, Kingsclere Players will ensure to reduce any risks by:

- If a photograph is used it will be stored safely by the Kingsclere Players and we will not undertake to publish details that would reveal the identity, address, school etc of the children
- Written parent/carers and personal consent will always be obtained prior to use or the publication of images or videoing of shows

Reporting/Disclosures

In the event of a chaperone noticing signs of child neglect or physical, emotional or sexual abuse we will treat their concern seriously, take reasonable steps to protect the child and report our concerns immediately to the local authorities.

In the event of any incident or disclosure involving a child, we will prepare a full written report with exact wording, date, time and signature by the designated safeguard lead and report this to the appropriate authorities.

Safeguarding Officer for Kingsclere Players

Jo Batson

jojones12@hotmail.com

07876 770275

Chair Person Kingsclere Players

Jessica Craker

jkcraker@gmail.com

07500600255

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yy thy Secretary for Kingsclere Players

Alice March

Helplines

Hampshire Childrens Services 0300 555 1384

Childline 0800 1111

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

Document to be reviewed 6 monthly. Next review 15.05.25.