

West Horsley Independent Players (The Whips) Child Protection Policy

The Whips (incorporating Whippets) 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.

The society recognises that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. The society is committed to ensuring that all its activities protect children from harm. All members of the society accept and recognise their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.

The Whips believes that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs, sexual identity or orientation, 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 Whips 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 Whips 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. This document shall be treated as 'sensitive' and access to it shall be confined to only those who are directly concerned with child safeguarding.

The Whips has a dedicated Child Protection Officer, who is in charge of ensuring that the child protection policy and procedures are adhered to. That person is:

Jan Hudson

janhud@talktalk.net

01372 457501

Reviewed: January 2023