

Safeguarding policy for child protection and vulnerable adults

Arundel Players are committed to ensuring a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all, particularly children (under 18) and vulnerable adults who engage in our theatre activities, performances, and programmes.

We believe that the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount and that all individuals have the right to protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, regardless of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or identity.

Purpose and Scope

This policy outlines how Arundel Players will safeguard children and vulnerable adults. It applies to:

- All members of Arundel Players, volunteers and contractors
- All activities organised by or associated with Arundel Players whether on or off its premises

Definitions

- Child - any person under the age of 18
- Vulnerable adult - a person aged 18 or over who by reasons of mental or other disability age illness or personal circumstances may be unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation and who might be deemed to be at risk because they are vulnerable
- Abuse - includes physical emotional sexual abuse and neglect as well as financial exploitation and discriminatory abuse

Safeguarding principles

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount
- All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from all forms of harm
- All children and vulnerable adults whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, race, racial origin, religious

beliefs, and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse.

- All children and vulnerable adults are treated equally and with respect and dignity
- The welfare of each child or vulnerable adult is always put first
- Arundel Players will work in partnership with children, vulnerable adults, their carers, external agencies and statutory bodies
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse to be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately

Responsibilities

Committee

- Ensure safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and reviewed annually and kept up to date with health and safety legislation
- Endeavour to keep informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

- Hold a register of every child and vulnerable adult involved with the theatre and retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies
- Receive and act on safeguarding concerns
- Maintain secure records of safeguarding concerns
- Liaise with statutory agencies when required
- All concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately

Volunteers and members

- Understand and adhere to the policy. All members to understand their obligations to report care or protection concerns about a child young person or vulnerable adult to the theatre's designated safeguarding officer
- All members working with children or vulnerable adults to be provided with a copy of the safeguarding policy

- Children and vulnerable adults must be supervised by appropriately vetted adults at all times during theatre activities

Code of conduct

- All individuals working with children and vulnerable adults must treat everyone with respect and dignity
- Avoid any unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult
- Not make suggestive or inappropriate comments
- Report any concerns immediately

Responding to concerns

If a child or vulnerable adult discloses abuse

- Listen carefully stay calm and avoid asking leading questions
- Do not promise confidentiality and explain that you may need to share the concern
- Report the concern to the DSO as soon as possible
- Record the concern in writing including date time and details of what was said

Confidentiality and record keeping

- All concerns must be kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know
- Written records will be stored securely in accordance with data protection laws

Contact information

Designated Safeguarding Officer for Arundel Players is:

Liz Beckmann lizbeckmann@lanmarkmedical.co.uk
07768610212

Arundel Players recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young persons act 1963, the Child (performances) Regulations 1968, the Protection of Children Act 1999, the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, and the Children Act 1989, revised 2004. A vulnerable adult is defined in accordance with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, (exceptions) (amendment) Order 2002 as a person aged 18 or over who has a condition of the following type: (1) a substantial learning or physical disability (2) a physical or mental illness or mental disorder, chronic or otherwise, including an addiction to alcohol or drugs or (3) a significant reduction in physical or mental capacity.

Dated: 21st January 2026