



## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

April 2025

Vale Musical Society 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 practices which protect children and young people from harm.

All members of the society accept and recognise their responsibilities and develop awareness of the issues which cause children or young people harm.

The society believes that:

- The welfare of the child or young person is paramount.
- All children or young people, 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 will be responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All members and associates of the society should be clear on how to respond appropriately.

The society will ensure that:

- All children and young people will be treated equally and with respect and dignity.
- The duty of care to children and young people will always be put first.
- A balanced relationship based on mutual trust will be built which empowers the children and young people 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 either directly or indirectly
- 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 informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children and young people.
- It will hold a register of every child and young person involved with the society and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

The society has a Child Protection Procedure which accompanies this policy. The society has a dedicated Child Protection Officer, who is in charge of ensuring that the Child Protection Policy and Procedure are adhered to.

It is our policy that all committee and society members taking part in a production involving children and young people will read the Child Protection Policy and Procedure and will sign a form to say they have read and understood these documents and will act in line with the commitments outlined. This policy will be regularly monitored by the committee of the society and will be subject to annual review.

Reviewed by Committee

April 2025

Agreed at AGM

August 2025

To be reviewed

January 2026