

Haslingfield Little Theatre (HLT) 'the Society' recognizes its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014, the Children (Protection at Work) Regulations 1998.

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 practice which protects children from harm. All members of the Society accept and recognise their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.

1. 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.

2. 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 between members and children 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 should 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 nearby 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 Health & Safety Policy.



The Society has a dedicated Child Protection Officer, who ensures that the child protection policy and associated procedures are adhered to. That person is Diana Offord who can be contacted on 01223 870037.

This policy is periodically monitored by the Executive Committee of the Society and will be subject to review every two years (minimum).

The Policy was first written in June 2010 and was last reviewed on 26th September 2025. The next review will take place in September 2027.