

## **The Arts Society Fylde Child Protection Policy Statement**

Implemented from 15.06.2017

This document should be read in conjunction with The Arts Society Fylde Child Protection Procedures, THE ARTS SOCIETY Handbook and THE ARTS SOCIETY YA Organisers guide.

### **Purpose and Function of our Organisation**

Our National Society, THE ARTS SOCIETY commenced its Young Arts Programme in 1973 and encourages all Member Societies to pursue Young Arts Projects. The Arts Society Fylde is committed to inspire young people with a lasting enthusiasm for the arts, and an awareness of our arts heritage and its conservation. Our shared vision is for equality of opportunity for all to learn through participation in the arts. We are keen therefore, in addition to our Young Arts work, to reach out to those excluded groups who may lack access to the arts. These objectives involve us with working with vulnerable children and young people.

### **To Whom Does This Policy Apply?**

This policy relates to children and young people under the age of 18 years. In recognising the differing needs of children and young people regardless of disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief we actively seek to meet needs notified to us by parents / guardians / carers and teachers. The Arts Society Fylde has a duty of care to safeguard all children and young people involved in its activities and will seek to do that through adherence to Child Protection Guidelines, relevant legislation and accepted good practice.

### **The Environment We Volunteer In**

The Arts Society Fylde Young Arts activities and events take place in schools, galleries, museums and other public and private places. In most cases the responsibility for child protection lies with the organisation responsible for the venue concerned, although in some cases The Arts Society Fylde may find themselves in a position where they have the prime duty of care for children.

Clear guidelines, prepared by The Arts Society Fylde or the relevant venue as appropriate will be issued by the Society's Young Arts Representative to children, young people, parents, guardians, organisers and volunteers concerning the venue, access arrangements, facilities and health & safety procedures to ensure that the environment at events organised by The Arts Society Fylde is as safe as is reasonably practicable. (For further information please refer to The Arts Society Fylde Child Protection Procedures document or guidelines prepared by THE ARTS SOCIETY [see contact details below].

### **Photographs**

The Arts Society Fylde is aware that photographs/videos/artwork can, in certain circumstances, pose risks to children and will be used only when appropriate permission has been obtained. Such use must comply with the Society's permission to use photographs/videos/artwork procedure.

### **Responsibility**

The Arts Society Fylde believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard their welfare.

We acknowledge that

- the welfare of the child or young person is paramount
- all children and young people have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- all allegations or suspicions of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All Society Members have a responsibility to report concerns.
- effective liaison between The Arts Society Fylde project organiser and the partner /organisation takes place
- The role of the volunteer(s) is clearly defined and discussed with the appropriate partner/organisation.

- The volunteer(s) are made aware of all relevant policies and procedures in use by The Arts Society Fylde and the partner/organisation.
- The volunteer(s) undergoes any mandatory training required by The Arts Society\_Fylde or the partner/organisation.
- Any DBD checks, references or other checks on the volunteer(s) as required by the organisation/partner or The Arts Society Fylde, are undertaken before volunteering takes place.
- Working with the public. The Arts Society Fylde volunteer(s) and Society Members should ensure that they are always in the company of another Arts Society Fylde volunteer(s) or another appropriately qualified adult [e.g. parent, guardian, teacher, carer/support worker, DBS checked adult].
- Assess whether DBS [government's Vetting and Barring Scheme as defined by the Independent Safeguarding Authority {ISA}] is required for volunteers taking part, and if necessary, ensuring that they have been undertaken. Or if appropriate assess and ensure volunteer(s) complete a Self-Declaration Form.
- Ensuring that the environment is safe and appropriate and that a Risk Assessment has been carried out and a hard copy is available at all times during an event.
- Ensuring that any potential hazards are identified and dealt with.
- Ensure that materials involved, i.e. in a workshop session, are safe and appropriate.
- ensuring the ADULT/CHILD RATIO is compliant with THE ARTS SOCIETY YOUNG ARTS GUIDELINES
- Ensure that THE ARTS SOCIETY Insurance covers the Young Arts Event.
- nb THE ARTS SOCIETY INSURANCE DOES NOT COVER CHILDREN UNDER 8, personal accident\*, theft, loss or damage of personal property. \*e.g. *a young person tripping over his own shoelace*
- Ensure that a FIRST AID BOX is stocked with items as advised by THE ARTS SOCIETY YOUNG ARTS GUIDELINES and taken to each event.
- Ensuring FIRST AID training for the Young Arts Coordinator or The Arts Society\_Fylde volunteer in charge of the event.

The Arts Society Fylde will ensure that this Policy will be followed by all Society members and volunteers, during volunteering activities organised by The Arts Society Fylde

### **Policy Review**

The Arts Society Fylde is committed to reviewing its policy, improving and amending as and when necessary. In doing this we will look to the National Association and NSPCC guidelines.

### **Enquiries**

Enquiries concerning any issues relating to Child Protection should be made to:

1. The Arts Society Fylde designated committee member:  
C. McHugh [mchugh2be@btinternet.com](mailto:mchugh2be@btinternet.com)
2. THE ARTS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MANAGER, THE ARTS SOCIETY, HOUSE, 8 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1DA T: 02074300730

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