**Our child protection policy**

This policy applies to all those involved with COS Musical Theatre, including members, volunteers, cast members or anyone working on behalf of COS Musical Theatre.

COS Musical Theatre recognises that taking part in theatre performances can improve confidence and self esteem and is committed to ensuring that the protection of children within the rehearsal and theatre environment, including personal welfare and health and safety, is a priority

**The purpose of this policy:**

to protect children and young people who take part in COS Musical Theatre Productions
to provide members and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

COS Musical Theatre believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

**Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

* Children Act 1989
* United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
* Data Protection Act 1998
* Sexual Offences Act 2003
* Children Act 2004
* Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
* Children and Families Act 2014
* Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children HM Government 2015

We recognise that:

* the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
* all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
* some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
* working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

* valuing them, listening to and respecting them
* adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for volunteers
* appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer for children and a Deputy
* providing effective management for volunteers through supervision, support and training
* volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
* sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, and volunteers
* sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.
* recording and storing information securely and appropriately
* ensuring we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Designated Safeguarding Officer: Susan Perry

 07780 116453

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Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer Charlotte Cosh

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This policy was reviewed on 15th August 2019

Adopted on: 15th August 2019………(date)

Signed: ....Terry Stanley........................................ Chair

**To be reviewed August 2021**

Adapted from the template from the NSPCC website <https://safeguardingtool.nspcc.org.uk/resource-library/resources/child-protection-/>

For further information and guidance on safeguarding, please see <https://safeguardingtool.nspcc.org.uk/>