

## **THEATR YR IFANC RHOS 1990 YOUTH THEATRE -**

### **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Theatr yr Ifanc Rhos 1990 Youth Theatre is committed to providing a safe environment for all its members who attend the weekly workshops and productions, wherever they may be held. It is guided by prevailing legislation and available guidance from <http://www.ssiacymru.org.uk>. Its inherent belief is that all children and young people under its care are future citizens of the world and will have had a safe and creative learning environment whilst members of the group.

Theatr yr Ifanc Rhos 1990 Youth Theatre will

- Ensure that children and young people feel secure and that they know who they can approach if they are concerned or in difficulty.
- Designate a member of the Management Committee to have overall responsibility for the safeguarding of its members. This will be the Chair of the Management Committee who will, with other Committee Members, appoint a member of the Committee to take a lead role in security and safeguarding issues.
- Ensure that the Lead Officer brings allegations of security and potential abuse promptly to the Committee.
- Endeavour to provide appropriate support to its members whilst concerns are investigated.
- Ensure that DBS procedures are carried out correctly and that any disclosures are dealt with promptly and with adequate care and concern for the members.

- Act promptly upon any allegation of abuse made against any members or the appointed officials of Theatr yr Ifanc Rhos 1990 Youth Theatre.
- If necessary, work with the appropriate agencies, to ensure that concerns are dealt with correctly and legally.
- Publicise the policy and procedures on the website and ensure that all members and their parents have the opportunity to view and make comments, as appropriate.

### Main elements to the Policy

1. Prevention through pastoral support systems and awareness of the policy.
2. Procedures for identifying and reporting cases or suspected cases of abuse, neglect and bullying.
3. Support for members who may have been abused, neglected and bullied.
4. To provide a safe and secure environment for children and young people at all performance venues.

### Definitions of Abuse

Somebody may abuse a child or young person by inflicting harm, or by failing to prevent harm. The categories are:-

PHYSICAL - may involve shaking, hitting, throwing or otherwise causing physical harm to a member.

EMOTIONAL - the persistent emotional ill treatment of a member as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the member. It may involve them being informed that they are worthless or inadequate.

SEXUAL - persuading or forcing a member to take part in sexual activities whether or not they are aware that this is happening. This is of particular concern when Theatr yr Ifanc Rhos 1990 Youth Theatre are away from base on their overseas trips.

NEGLECT - failing to ensure that they are securely chaperoned and supported during rehearsals and production and that security is maintained through adequate documentation and registration procedures.

### PROCEDURES

Theatr yr Ifanc Rhos 1990 Youth Theatre will follow the All Wales Child Protection Procedures that have been endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

The organisation will:

1. Ensure that adequate procedures are in place to undertake DBS investigations.
2. Ensure that the designated Committee member is supported and has adequate training.
3. Recognise the role of the designated member of the Committee.
4. Ensure every Committee Member and appointed Officers/Artistic Team know

- who the designated person is, and their role.
  - that they also have individual responsibility for referring concerns using the proper channels.
  - how to take forward those concerns where the designated person is unavailable.
5. Ensure that all Committee Members and staff are aware of the need to be alert to the signs of abuse and security issues and how to respond to a member who discloses abuse.
  6. Keep written records of concerns about the members even when there is no need to refer to appropriate agencies.

This policy was created and agreed by the **Theatr yr Ifanc Rhos 1990 Youth Theatre** committee on March 10th, 2016. The policy and its effectiveness regarding its implementation, will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance.
- as a result of any other significant change or event.