

Taunton Festival of the Arts
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (Revised 12/10/2017)

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT:

This policy applies to our, Adjudicator, members, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of Festival.

The purpose of the policy:

- to provide protection for the children and young people who participate in our festival, including the children of festival members
- to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

To whom does this policy apply:

The policy relates to children under age 18 and members of vulnerable groups of any age who are identified to the organisers prior to their arrival at the Festival (provision for this is included in Part A of the entry form, enclosed with the syllabus or by contacting the address or telephone number at the foot of this document). In recognising the needs of children from all ethnic groups or who are disabled, the Festival actively seeks where possible to meet the needs notified to the Festival by parents, guardians, carers or teachers , but needs to know beforehand in order to prepare support or let you know that we are unable to help.

Purpose and function of the organisation:

The Taunton Festival of the Arts aims to advance the education of the public in the arts of music, speech and drama and dance, in particular by holding an annual performing arts festival and arranging concerts, workshops and other events. The Festival provides a platform for amateur performance for children and adults, combined with an educational element from professionals. Copies of this policy will be sent to teachers making entries and will accompany the syllabus and programme.

The festival environment:

It is the Festival's policy to ensure that, in co-operation with parents and teachers, the annual competitive festival and annual concert or other events, if any, take place in safe and secure environments as far as is reasonable and practicable. This may involve the use of more than one venue for each section as well as for the Festival generally. The Festival is solely responsible for running these activities. Neither the Festival members nor the section volunteers are responsible for any children who attend the Festival, or who have to move between venues during it. The Festival venues are open to the public. The Festival, which is run by volunteers, will use its best endeavours to inform parents and teachers of this policy.

Festival personnel:

The Festival is run entirely by volunteers. Checks are made on all relevant volunteers through the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) where necessary. The Management Committee are the charity trustees who are elected at the AGM in accordance with the constitution. Stewards who assist with the running of events are recruited through the recommendation of members of the Committee and a record is kept of their contact details and of their referees. The involvement of volunteers is reviewed annually to see whether they need an enhanced disclosure from the DBS.