

# **Ferrier Operatic Society**

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Ferrier Operatic Society recognizes its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968, the Protection of Children Act 1999, the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

The Society recognizes that abuse can take many forms: physical, emotional, sexual or neglect. The Society is committed to practice which protects children from harm. All members of the society accept and recognize their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.

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.

The Company will ensure that:

- all children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity;
- the welfare of each child will always be put first;
- bullying will not be accepted or condoned;
- all members of the society 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 telephone number close at hand in case of emergencies.

Ferrier Operatic Society's Committee oversees and shares a collective and individual responsibility for the implementation of the Society's child protection policy and procedures which will be subject to review before any production which involves children.