



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Child Protection Co-ordinator: Mrs. Janneke Oxley, 11 Madeira Road, Ventnor, IW PO38 1QP

The organisation: Isle of Arts (Ventnor Festival CIC)

1. Purpose of the organisation:

The Festival's mission is to organise a broadly based arts festival with performances and workshops in the areas of music, literature, comedy, photography, film and visual arts. It will include performances by both professionals and amateurs of all ages in a friendly atmosphere.

Key objectives are:

- To hold and promote an annual festival
- To present and promote public performances, concerts, exhibitions, workshops and master classes
- To provide an educational element through a schools outreach programme to encourage children of all ages to develop their artistic skills and understanding
- To focus on our local cultural heritage by showcasing work of artists who are Isle of Wight residents, or who were born or have lived and worked on the Island
- To increase the interest of local residents of all ages in all forms of art by presenting top quality performances not usually available in the area.

2. To whom this Policy applies:

This Policy relates to children under the age of 18, and to those vulnerable persons of any age who are identified to the Child Protection Co-ordinator prior to their arrival at the Festival. The Festival actively seeks to meet any needs, including those for children with disabilities that are notified to the Child Protection Co-ordinator by parents prior to their arrival at the festival.

Note: The definition and the use of the word parent(s) throughout this Policy includes guardians, carers, and/or teachers of children under 18 or vulnerable adults.

3. The Festival Environment:

The Isle of Arts Festival seeks to create a caring environment with the highest possible level of protection for children and others to whom this Policy applies. The Festival organisers will work with volunteers, parents, guardians, carers and/or teachers to ensure that the Festival venues are as safe as is reasonably practicable for all who attend or perform at the event.

4. Festival Personnel:

All personnel (Festival organisers and volunteers) can be identified by an approved Isle of Arts badge. The Festival follows the guidelines of the Protection of Children Act 1999 (implemented in April 2002) in selecting personnel and maintaining responsible records. All Festival personnel are fully aware of and support this Policy. The roles of all Festival personnel are considered during the planning stages of the Festival and the Festival holds full contact details of all personnel. Festival organisers will have been processed and cleared by the Criminal Records Bureau.

5. Preparation for Attendance at the Festival:

The Festival is not a childcare organisation in the full meaning of the Protection of Children Act 1999. Parents, guardians, carers, teachers and those in charge of groups are reminded that they are the primary carers, and the safety and good behaviour of all children is totally their responsibility while attending the Festival. If parents or guardians are unable to attend the Festival, they must satisfy themselves that their children are properly supervised by another responsible adult acting on their behalf. Isle of Arts Festival personnel are not permitted to take on this role.

Note: Any persons(s) acting in this role will be expected to pay admission fees to performances where applicable, unless otherwise agreed by Festival organisers prior to the Festival.

6. Performance and Waiting Areas:

The Festival endeavours to provide the most suitable performing and changing facilities available, but draws to the attention of parents that many areas are unsupervised at each venue. No responsibility can be undertaken for loss of personal property, including instruments. Festival personnel will be in attendance at venues specially aimed at children (such as workshops and shows/films for children), but parents must be aware that toilets and other public areas are not monitored.

7. Photographs, Videotapes and Press photography

Unauthorised photography and recording of any kind are not allowed during performances or workshops. It is possible to do so between events, but only with the agreement of the parent(s) of the person(s) being photographed / recorded.

Authorised Festival or press photographers and film makers (designated by an official Festival badge) may take photographs or film material, which can be used to advertise or report on the Festival.

If there is any objection to a child or vulnerable adult being filmed or photographed while attending the Festival, please inform the Child Protection Co-ordinator in writing before the Festival., in order that instructions can be passed on to all personnel.

8. The Legislation and Guidance that supports this Policy:

The Children's Act 1989 and 2004,
The Police Act 1997,
The Data Protection Act 1998,
The Human Rights Act 1998,
The Protection of Children Act 1999, as updated in 2005,
The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000,
The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

9. Policy Review:

The Isle of Arts Festival organisers undertake to treat every problem seriously, to document it and follow it through. This Policy will constantly be reviewed to improve and enhance it as necessary. In doing this, the Festival will look to other agencies for good practice, most notably the NSPCC and the Arts Council of England Policy guidelines.