

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Implemented from 1 January 2017

FULL NAME OF ORGANISATION: MANX COMPETITIVE MUSIC SPEECH AND DANCE FESTIVAL

CHAIRMAN: Mr Eric Quirk

SECRETARY: Dr Jacqueline Yates

VENUE: Villa Marina, Douglas Isle of Man.

Where the word "child" or "children" is used throughout this document, it also includes vulnerable adults. Where "parent" is used it includes guardians and carers.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT: The safety of children and vulnerable adults is paramount and all, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately and all officers, committee members and volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns.

1. PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF ORGANISATION:

To promote participation and excellence in the amateur performance of music, spoken word and dance by means of competition.

2. THE FESTIVAL ENVIRONMENT:

The principal venue for the Festival, where all children's classes are held, is the Villa Marina, Douglas, Isle of Man, which remains in part open to the general public during the Festival. The Festival is run by volunteers who aim to communicate and co-operate with parents and teachers to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that the Festival provides a safe environment for children.

3. TO WHOM DOES THIS POLICY APPLY:

This policy relates to children under the age of 18 years and those vulnerable adults of any age who are identified to the organisers prior to their arrival at the Festival. This should be done by contacting the address or telephone number at the foot of this document. In recognising the needs of children from all ethnic groups and children who are disabled, the Festival actively seeks to meet needs notified to the Festival by parents/guardians/carers and/or teachers.

4. FESTIVAL PERSONNEL:

The Festival is run by officers and committee members who are elected at the Annual General Meeting. They are helped during the week of the Festival by additional stewards, selected by personal recommendation and interview. Details of all personnel are held by the Secretary. They can be identified at the Festival by name badges and anyone wearing a badge can be approached in case of a problem and will be able to take you to someone who will be able to help. In addition, whilst classes are taking place, officers will be available in the Festival Office. All problems will be taken seriously, documented and dated in accordance with festival procedures.

5. PREPARATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE FESTIVAL:

It is the policy of the Festival that all parents receive a copy of this Policy in time to make their arrangements to attend the Festival. You will have received this Policy

either directly from the Secretary or via your teacher, whose responsibility it is to ensure that all parents receive a copy. Further copies are available at the ticket office or Festival office.

Neither the officers and Festival committee nor individual stewards are responsible for supervising children. Parents must ensure that each child is supervised at the Festival by a responsible adult. Competitors under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible adult when attending a run through with an official accompanist.

6. PERFORMANCE AREAS:

In all performance areas, children approach the stage from the front in sight of the audience.

7. DRESSING ROOMS

The Festival organisers provide separate girls' and boys' dressing rooms during the Festival. Dressing rooms will be supervised by teachers, parents, guardians, carers and chaperones appointed by the schools, or by parents in the case of private entries. Admission to the dressing rooms will be strictly limited; female chaperones only will be admitted to the girls' changing room but mothers may enter the boys' dressing room. The Festival will not accept any responsibility whatsoever for supervising toilet and communal facilities. Changing areas, warm up areas and toilets are not supervised and children should not be allowed to stray into areas designated as out of bounds. Teachers/parents/guardians/carers should be aware that backstage changing facilities for contestants are limited.

7. PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOTAPES AND PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY

Recording and photography of any type are prohibited in the competition rooms. A press photographer may on occasion photograph competitors, and it is the responsibility of the supervising adult to ensure that parents' wishes are complied with as to whether this is allowed.

8. THE LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE THAT SUPPORTS THIS POLICY:

The Children and Young Persons Act 2001, the Data Protection Act 2002, the European Convention on Human Rights, the Criminal Justice Act 2001, the Copyright Act 1991.

POLICY REVIEW

The organisers will constantly review their policy revising and enhancing it as necessary. In doing this they will look to the British and International Federation of Festivals for support and good practice and also to other agencies such as the Isle of Man Children's Centre.

Festival Secretary:

Dr Jacqueline Yates, 6 Mountain View, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 5HU

In October 2018 the Manx Competitive Music, Speech and Dance Festival was approved under Regulation 5(c) of the **Performance by Children Regulations 2004** as a **Body of Persons Approved** by the Department of Education and Children (now the Department for Education, Sport and Culture) and is therefore exempt from children's performance licencing in the IOM for a five year term. Documentation relating to this approval is available from the Festival Secretary.