

# COASTArts

## SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

### **Purpose and Scope**

COAST Arts works with children, families and vulnerable adults as part of its activities. It is essential that every effort is made to ensure that children and vulnerable adults can engage with the arts safely, and that there are effective processes and procedures in place to respond to concerns should they arise.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who receive our services
- To provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child and vulnerable adult protection

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of COAST Arts, including paid staff, the board of trustees, volunteers, sessional workers and freelancers where we engage with them to provide work for us.

### **Legal Framework**

This policy is based upon the principles enshrined within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. What this means in practice is a commitment to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements as set out in the government guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)*, the *Care Act (2014)* and the *Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)*.

### **Who do adult safeguarding duties apply to?**

The Care Act 2014 sets out that adult safeguarding duties apply to *any* adult who:

- has care and support needs, and
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and neglect, and
- is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect, because of those needs.

### **We recognise that:**

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All adults have the right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect
- All children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children and vulnerable adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, vulnerable adults, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare

## Safeguarding procedures

In order to safeguard both participant and workshop leader/volunteer COAST Arts operates the following procedures:

- A copy of this policy will be given to all supervising adults
- Where necessary, workshop leaders and volunteers will be asked to produce a valid enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate
- In accordance with health and safety procedures, a risk assessment will be carried out for all activities
- A child protection/safeguarding lead will be nominated
- Where our workshops are for **accompanied** children: school parties must be supervised by the appropriate number of teaching and support staff; youth leaders must be present during workshops with youth clubs; and in family workshops parents/carers must remain with their charge at all times
- Where our workshops are for unaccompanied children, we will ensure that all supervising adults will have a valid enhanced DBS certificate. There will be at least two adults present when working with or supervising children and young people. We will adhere to the following adult to child ratios as the minimum numbers to help keep children safe:
  - **0 - 2 years** - one adult to three children
  - **2 - 3 years** - one adult to four children
  - **4 - 8 years** - one adult to six children
  - **9 - 12 years** - one adult to eight children
  - **13 - 18 years** - one adult to ten children

## Code of conduct for supervising adults

In our dealings with children, young people and vulnerable adults, COAST Arts expects all supervising adults to:

- Treat them with respect and dignity
- Ensure that their welfare and safety is paramount at all times
- Always act in a professional way and not accept bullying, swearing or other disruptive behaviour
- Liaise openly with parents and carers
- Only use physical contact if absolutely necessary
- Avoid being alone with children and young people at all times
- Listen to, and act upon, any disclosure/allegations/concerns of child abuse
- Make activities fun and enjoyable

## Raising concerns

It is the duty of **all adults** acting on behalf of COAST Arts to refer without delay to the Nominated Safeguarding Lead in the event of:

- Concerns about the welfare of any child, young person or vulnerable adult
- Concerns about the behaviour of adults
- Allegations of abuse
- In an emergency, dialling 999 may be the only sensible course of action stating this is a child protection issue

Any concerns or allegations raised will be taken seriously and dealt with calmly and fairly.

## **Nominated Safeguarding Lead**

The Nominated Safeguarding Lead is Barry Meadows.

The Lead is responsible for:

- Monitoring and recording concerns
- Ensuring valid enhanced DBS certificates are provided where appropriate
- Making referrals to social services/police without delay
- Liaising with other agencies

Any disclosure made in good faith to the Safeguarding Lead will be protected if the whistleblower has a reasonable suspicion of child abuse and has acted in the best interests of the child.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Policy reviewed and adopted by the Trustees on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for and on behalf of COAST Arts.