



## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

**The West Wickham Operatic Society, hereafter referred to as WWOS,** recognizes its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968, the Protection of Children Act 1999 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000. WWOS recognizes that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. WWOS is committed to practice which protects children from harm.

WWOS 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 WWOS should be clear on how to respond appropriately.

WWOS will ensure that:

All children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity.

The duty of care to children will always be put first.

A balanced relationship based on mutual trust will be built which empowers the children to share in the decision making process.

Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism.

Bullying will not be accepted or condoned.

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 WWOS and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

WWOS has child protection procedures.

This policy will be regularly monitored by the WWOS Management Council and will be subject to annual review.

*1<sup>st</sup> January 2011*