



Registered Charity No.
1061265

Christian Drama Resource Centre

'LifeWorks'

Loughton Methodist Church

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In partnership with Loughton Methodist Church

Patron: Lady Heather Murray



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Safeguarding Children and Adults who are Vulnerable Policy for the Christian Drama Resource Centre (CDRC)

This policy was agreed at a Trustees Meeting held on 8th October 2016.

The Christian Drama Resource Centre, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Christian Drama Resource Centre is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults who are vulnerable and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

Christian Drama Resource Centre recognises that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capacities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and adults who are vulnerable. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, adults who are vulnerable, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

Christian Drama Resource Centre fully agrees with the Methodist Church statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space* 2007:

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

Christian Drama Resource Centre recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and adults who are vulnerable and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

Christian Drama Resource Centre commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or adults who are vulnerable may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

Christian Drama Resource Centre commits itself to ensuring the implementation of its Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice.

Christian Drama Resource Centre commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Christian Drama Resource Centre affirms and gives thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and adults who are vulnerable and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for their safety on our premises.

Christian Drama Resource Centre appoints Malcolm Bell as CDRC Safeguarding Adults Representative and as CDRC Safeguarding Children Coordinator, referred to locally as The Safeguarding Officer, and supports him in his role which is to:

- i) support and advise the Trustees in fulfilling their roles
- ii) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- iii) liaise with Loughton Methodist Church Safeguarding Officer
- iv) promote safeguarding best practice within CDRC with the support of Loughton Methodist Church.

a) **Purpose**

The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for adults who are vulnerable in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Safeguarding Handbook (2010).

b) Good Practice

We believe good practice means that:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of CDRC should not meet or work alone with a child where the activity cannot be seen.
- iii) Those who act on behalf of CDRC who meet for pastoral reasons with an adult who is vulnerable should generate a written note of this meeting including date, time and place of visit. This should be kept by the pastoral visitor and made available to the Safeguarding Officer if required.
- iv) The church premises will be assessed for safety for children and adults who are vulnerable and the risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council in written form. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- v) Any CDRC-organised transport of children or adults who are vulnerable will be checked to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort are appropriate.
- vi) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Trustees will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

c) Appointment and training of workers

Workers will be appointed after a satisfactory DBS disclosure where appropriate. Each worker will be expected to undergo basic safeguarding training, within the first year of appointment. The other training needs of each worker will be considered (e.g. food hygiene, first aid, lifting and handling, etc.) and each worker will have an annual review conducted by a named member of the Trustees and another worker within the organisation. No appointment can be made until safeguarding checks are completed and approved by the Safeguarding Officer. A worker without safeguarding approval cannot take up, or continue, in a role with children or vulnerable adults.

d) Events organised by CDRC off the premises

Notification of the event with a full list of participants and leaders will be given to the Safeguarding Officer prior to the event

e) Internet and Social Media

Where Internet access is provided by the CDRC for staff use that access should be restricted to prevent inappropriate use. The use of external data networks to access inappropriate material is prohibited and should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer. Children and young people should be monitored by their supervising adult.

f) Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Trustees. The date of the next review is October 2017

g) Key concepts and definitions

- i) Adults who are vulnerable: any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of her or himself, or to protect her or himself from significant harm or exploitation.
- ii) Safeguarding and protecting children or adults who are vulnerable from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iii) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- iv) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or adults who are vulnerable or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Dated 8th October 2016

Signed Ah Moles Chair of Trustees