

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



The safety of children and vulnerable adults is paramount and all, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse. Procedures are in place and must be understood by all those involved in order to promote and maintain a safe and welcoming environment.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Shetland Accordion & Fiddle Festival and Club are keen to nurture and encourage young people & vulnerable adults to develop their skills as players and performers, as well as providing a safe environment for vulnerable groups visiting these events.
- 1.1 This policy relates to children under the age of 16 years, young people between ages 16 and 18 and those vulnerable adults of any age who are identified to the organisers prior to their arrival at the Festival/Club. In recognising the needs of all performers, those from all ethnic groups and those with special needs, we actively seek to meet the needs notified to the Festival by parents, guardians, carers, teachers & Social Work.
- 1.2 This should be done by contacting the Festival - contact details are available on the contact us page of our website – www.shetlandaccordionandfiddle.com

2 THE FESTIVAL ENVIRONMENT

- 2.1 The venues used by the Shetland Accordion and Fiddle Festival for performances will be recognised theatres and community buildings, public halls. Community buildings and halls may well have areas which are open to the public – other than those attending the Festival.
- 2.2 It is our policy to inform and involve teachers, parents, guardians and carers in partnership, in order to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable, a safe environment at the Festival.
- 2.3 The Shetland Accordion and Fiddle Festival is run by volunteers, with the professional assistance of artists, tutors, accompanists and teachers.

3 FESTIVAL PERSONNEL

- 3.1 Festival personnel are recruited by personal recommendations from the Committee. During the Festival all Committee Members and volunteers will wear identification badges.
- 3.1 Anyone so identified can be approached and will be able to give directions to the appropriate committee member who will deal with any problem. Every problem will be taken seriously, and will be documented and dated.

4 PREPARATION FOR ATTENDANCE OR PARTICIPATION IN THE FESTIVAL.

- 4.1 Local bands involving children who have submitted entries will be notified of the Child Protection and Safety policies for the Festival. Parents, guardians or carers of children who are not personally attending with their children should ensure that their children are accompanied and adequately supervised at the Festival by responsible adults acting on their behalf.
- 4.2 Children entered as part of a school group will be supervised by school appointed adults as specified by local authority guidelines.

5 PERFORMANCE AND SOUND CHECK/SESSION AREAS

- 5.1 Voluntary stewards will be in attendance in the Festival Club and at the various venues where local bands perform at.
- 5.2 Parents, guardians, carers and teachers should ensure that children or vulnerable adults are adequately supervised at all times.

6 PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOTAPES, AUDIOTAPES AND PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY

- 6.1 There will be no photography, videotaping or tape recording permitted within the venues except by authorised photographers who will be permitted to photograph performers under the direction of Festival Committee and stewards. It will be for parents, teachers and schools to inform the Committee if a child should not be photographed

7 THE LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE THAT SUPPORTS THIS POLICY

- 7.1 The Protection of Children (Scotland) Act, 2003; Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act, 2003; The Police Act, 1997; Children (Scotland) Act, 1995.

8 RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONCERNS

- 8.1 The Shetland Accordion and Fiddle Festival is organised by a voluntary committee. Although it has no statutory responsibility to investigate allegations of child abuse, it has, however, a responsibility to refer any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of a child to the appropriate agency for investigation (Duty social worker 01595 744400).
- 8.2 Any concern about a child should be referred to any Committee Member who should take all appropriate actions about the concerns. Any decision to take further action by way of referral to the Child Protection Unit will be taken by the Chairperson / Vice Chairperson.
- 8.3 In the case of emergency, any Committee Member will ensure that medical attention is received or the Police alerted as appropriate. The Police have power to act immediately to protect a child.

9 POLICY REVIEW

- 9.1 The Shetland Accordion and Fiddle Festival Committee will keep its policy under review, upgrading it as necessary.

Policy Agreed : 08 August 2022

Policy Reviewed : 23 July 2023