



MIYPS

SAFEGUARDING Policy

April 2025

Revision date- April 2026

Updated-

The Mersea Island Young Players (MIYPS) acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and requirements.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY IS TO:

Provide MIYPS Leaders, Chaperones, Volunteers, Parents and children with the overarching legal framework and principles that guide our approach to Safeguarding.

Outline the statutory responsibilities of the MIYPS community in line with legislation and guidance.

MIYPS will ensure that arrangements are in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children by:

* Ensuring a safe environment where children feel secure, enable them to participate and are encouraged to talk and are listened to.

MIYPS aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, disability, sexual orientation or identity, all children have a positive and enjoyable experience of participating in the performing arts.

The generic term 'child abuse' is used to describe various ways in which children are harmed or mistreated.

Abuse can take many forms, whether it is physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. MIYPS is committed to practice which safeguards the children from harm. All members of **MIYPS** accept and recognize their responsibilities to develop awareness of safeguarding and the issues which cause children harm.



MIYPS believes that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All members and associates of MIYPS must be clear on how to respond appropriately.

MIYPS will ensure that:

- All children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity.
- The welfare of each child 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.
- All adult leaders of MIYPS will provide a positive role model for dealing with other people; action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour.
- It will keep up to date with health and 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 MIYPS and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

Photography and Filming:

- All parents will have completed the registration form agreeing to Images of their child being used. Images of children posted online or in printed matter will be identified by their first name only and with no other personal details.



- To reduce the risk of inappropriate use of images only images deemed suitable will be used.
- Anyone with any complaints about images posted can speak to the MIYPS DSL and the images will be removed.
 - The expectations for parents or spectators who wish to take photographs or film at an event are to avoid inappropriate or intrusive photography.

Leaders

You are asked to present your DBS Certificate to MIYPS DSL when you are over 18 years old and working with the children.

It is responsibility of the DSL to allow non-DBS holders to give assistance/helping with children.

All helpers are asked to ensure they are not alone on a one to one with children from MIYPS.

WHAT IS A DISCLOSURE?

This is the formal term used for when a child/person shares experiences with you that they have been through or have concerns about.

HOW TO RESPOND TO A DISCLOSURE

- * It is imperative to remain calm when this information is shared with you.
- * Listen, show no opinion of what is being said. You can ask questions carefully - who, what, where, when?
- * Remember these details as you will need to document them at your earliest convenience to the DSL.
- * It is imperative you explain to the child/person that you are not able to keep this a secret, you will need to share what has been said with the MIYPS DSL

Useful agencies that can be contacted to support:

NSPCC Helpline - 0808 800 5000

CHILDLINE - 0800 1111



MIYPS has a nominated Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). It is their responsibility to ensure the safeguarding of all children and adults within MIYPS.

That person's name is ..CLAIRE THOMAS.....

And he/she can be contacted on
merseaistandyoungplayers@aol.co.uk / 07793221339.....

This policy will be regularly monitored by the MIYPS Committee in consultation with the committee of the adult group, referred to as Mersea Island Players (MIPS) and will be subject to annual review.

Date: ..22/4/25.....

MIYPS are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

The policy will be reviewed annually or in the following circumstances.

- *changes in legislation and/or government guidance*