

Hastings & Rother Arts Education Network (HRAEN)



The HRAEN safeguarding policy

This policy applies to all staff, including steering groups members and the board of trustees, volunteers, artists and members of cultural organisations, students or anyone working on behalf of HRAEN.

The purpose of this policy:

- To protect children and young people who received HRAEN's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection;

HRAEN believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely;

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2006
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25 years – Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015
- Working together to safeguarding children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount as enshrined in the Children Act 1989

- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children 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, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Ensuring all HRAEN activities are carefully planned and are appropriate for the children and young people we work with
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely, and sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- Using our procedures to manage any concerns regarding the welfare of any children and young people which should be reported to the SDO who will complete an incident form, and will respond appropriately – this may include referrals to the statutory authorities
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance

Contact details

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Melanie Powell: Hraen.melanie@gamil.com

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

This policy was last reviewed on: 19th May 2018

Signed:

M Powell; Chair of Trustees