

Lafrowda Festival

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy Statement

Lafrowda Festival is a charity whose aim is to promote arts for the benefit of the public generally, and in particular for the inhabitants of St Just in Penwith, by promoting the annual festival of arts and music. Children, young people and vulnerable adults may be involved with Lafrowda in a number of ways ranging from participating in the production of artwork, attending educational events and workshops, as students taking part in work experience placements, or participating in festival day parades and events.

Lafrowda is run by a volunteer committee, employs artists and other practitioners on a sessional basis, and utilises volunteer help in fulfilling its objectives.

Lafrowda is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people, and it is the responsibility of all Lafrowda staff, sessional workers, volunteers and helpers to promote the protection of children and young people, respect the rights, wishes and feelings of young people and remember that protecting the child's welfare is the priority. This policy will apply to all permanent and temporary staff and volunteers.

In the context of child protection, children and young persons refers to anyone less than 18 years of age. This policy relates to children under the age of 18 and vulnerable adults of any age, irrespective of ability, race, religion, culture and gender

Lafrowda believes that:

- The welfare of the child, young person or vulnerable adult is of utmost importance
- All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be properly investigated and dealt with swiftly and appropriately
- All staff, sessional workers and volunteers should consider the well being and safety of the participants as paramount, and have a responsibility to report concerns.

Therefore Lafrowda will ensure that

- Children and young people are treated with care, respect and dignity they deserve
- Any risks to children presented by our activities are assessed
- Staff avoid physical contact with children and young people except for reasons of health and safety, or under supervision
- Staff are carefully selected, and regularly monitored.
- All staff are aware of the Child Protection Policy and Procedures

Supervising committee members will monitor implementation of the policy and report concerns to the Chair whose responsibility it is to liaise with police and social services as necessary. Concerns may also be reported to the NSPCC Child Protection Hotline (0800 800 500), open 24 hours a day.

All Lafrowda workers have a responsibility to maintain appropriate standards of behaviour, see Code of Behaviour, and to report lapses in these standards by others. Any concerns or reasonable suspicions of abuse should be reported to the supervising committee member. Any individual not happy with the response to concerns should feel comfortable to take matters further to the Chair, and if necessary to the police or social services

Offers of employment to positions where working with children and young people is an expected part of the job will be subject to CRB disclosure. This applies to persons engaged as staff and sessional workers. Practitioners running workshops outside the Lafrowda Festival insured period will be expected to hold an appropriate amount of Public Liability Insurance. Lafrowda will hold the

details of all workers who must wear the form of identification provided when engaged in work for Lafrowda.

A risk assessment will be carried out by the committee for the workshop programme, all other educational activity and the festival day activities prior to their commencement to determine the level of disclosure needed, as well as to identify other possible risk. At each venue Lafrowda will provide a caring environment with, as far as is reasonably possible, the highest level of safety.

Children under 14 attending workshops should be accompanied by a parent, teacher or other supervising adult with whom the primary responsibility for their welfare lies. Lafrowda staff will actively seek to meet needs notified to them by parents, guardians, carers and/ or teachers.

It is recognised that the schools and colleges expect young adults from 15-18 years of age undertaking work experience placements to develop independence, responsibilities, and the ability to make their own decisions and to apply learning. The safety and welfare of the young person, however, is still paramount, and time will be taken to explain the format of the placement, including place and conditions of work and ensure that he or she is comfortable with the proposed arrangements.

It is occasionally necessary for photographs to be taken of activities for publicity and documentation purposes. In the case of children under 16, permission will be sought from the child's parents, responsible adult or school. Young people and adults aged 16 and over will be asked verbally for consent before any photographs are taken.

Lafrowda will provide the content of this policy to all staff, sessional workers, volunteers and helpers, and make it available to all participants.

Code of Behaviour for Lafrowda Staff, Sessional Staff, and Volunteers:

Do

- Seek assistance from colleagues or Lafrowda committee member where appropriate
- Be aware of the possibility of danger from others and question situations that you find suspicious
- Act professionally in all matters
- Be aware of appearances and avoid any situations which might appear compromising
- Report any allegation (even if this is just a suspicion) of abuse or inappropriate conduct immediately to your line manager

Do not

- Engage in any "rough and tumble" or other horseplay
- Physically restrain a child or young person except in exceptional circumstances (e.g. to prevent injury, damage to property or to prevent theft) and even then be careful to use only the minimum restraint necessary
- Make sexually suggestive comments to any visitor
- Use foul or abusive language to any visitor and especially not to or within earshot of a child
- Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind. The main principles of touch are:
 - The desire to be touched should always be initiated by the child
 - Touch should always be appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child
- Do things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves or that a parent/leader can do for them.
- Spend time alone with a child on his/her own. If you are in a situation where you are alone with a child, make sure you can be clearly observed or seen by others.

Contact Numbers :

Lafrowda Chair : Kevin Godden 07887940213
Workshops Coordinator: Tamsin Young 07821098633

Lafrowda
January 2009

NSPCC child protection hotline
Children's Social Care
Childline

0800 800 500
01872 322000
0800 1111