

Priston Festival Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

1. The Priston Festival is a registered charity which presents an annual music and arts festival in the village of Priston, together with other cultural events throughout the year. These events may include some elements which are intended to attract children as audience, or as participants in group activities. Examples of organised activities focussed on children include an art project, face-painting, story-telling, puppet shows, film shows and music workshops. Children are also welcome to join events primarily targeted at adults where this is safe and appropriate.

Statement of Intent

2. The Priston Festival aims to ensure that **all** participants and audience enjoy their festival experience. The Priston Festival is committed to creating a safe environment in which young and vulnerable people can feel comfortable, secure and respected while engaged in any of the Festival activities.
3. This Policy relates to children under the age of 18 years and any vulnerable adults attending or participating in Priston Festival events. All without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.
4. All children and accompanied vulnerable adults attending the Festival are the responsibility of their parent or other carer.
5. All activities will take place in public areas eg. the village green and car-park, village hall, church, pub. The Priston Festival will not stage events which involve any unsupervised, prolonged or close contact with children or vulnerable people away from other adults, or where it is intended that children under 12 years old are to be left unattended by their parent or other responsible adult.

Guidelines for all staff and volunteers.

6. All staff and volunteers working with children will be recruited by personal recommendation or appropriate enquiries will be made concerning their credentials. This applies also to performers and traders whose activities are focused on children or vulnerable people as audience or participants. Risk assessments performed by the Festival will take into account as appropriate any specific risks to the welfare of children or vulnerable people.
7. All Festival trustees, staff, volunteers, performers, traders and other participants are expected to show respect for all individuals' rights, safety and welfare, including those of children and other vulnerable persons.
8. All volunteers will be sent copies of our safeguarding policy and receive written guidelines on how to proceed if they have safeguarding concerns.
9. Any events specifically involving children will be based in an environment where children feel secure.
10. Festival staff, volunteers, performers and traders must avoid time alone with children and vulnerable people away from, or out of sight of, other adults.
11. Trustees and Stewards will be identified by badges and/or high-visibility jackets. A list of volunteers is maintained by the Festival Secretary.
12. Trustees/Stewards can be approached for help. An Information Stall which is manned by Trustees/Stewards is also available at the annual Festival, and can be approached for assistance.
13. Volunteers will be made aware that the Priston Festival has appointed a Trustee as a Designated Safeguarding Officer: Name: OWAIN JONES
14. Any issues relating to this Safeguarding Policy must be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Officer. Where this is inappropriate, notification may be made to any other Trustee of the Festival. All referrals will be treated seriously and dealt with promptly, including contacting external agencies as appropriate.
15. Records will be kept of all issues raised, and kept securely in line with Data Protection requirements.

Policy communication and review

16. This policy is published on the Festival website, and the Committee will also ensure it is brought to the notice of all performers, traders and volunteers. A copy will be available to Festival participants on request.
17. This policy will be reviewed annually by the Festival Committee, or more frequently where the need arises.

Reviewed 25th July 2024