

## Festival Safeguarding Policy Statement

Annually ISKCON holds various public festivals. ISKCON is committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believe that it is unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults by a commitment to best practice which protects them.

This policy applies to our Board of Trustees, paid staff, volunteers, students/WOOFERS or anyone working on behalf of ISKCON and our member Festivals.

### We recognise that:

- the welfare of the children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

### The purpose of the policy:

- to provide protection for children, young people and vulnerable adults who participate in our festivals, including the children of festival members
- to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm

### We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

ISKCON will review this policy each year in August in line with Safe Network guidance or sooner in light of any changes in legislation or guidance. All changes will be communicated to all or volunteers and employees.

### Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone

ISKCON use the following policies and procedures to provide **Safer Festivals** for everyone:

1. A single, definitive Safeguarding Policy adopted by departments and festival committees with Child Protection training provided by a member of the Manor Child

Protection Team (CPT) .

2. The designated Festival Safeguarding Officers (FSO) appointed for ISKCON Festivals is:  
**Name: Daksina Devi Dasi**  
**Telephone: 07852140997**
3. The following clear reporting procedure is to be followed for anyone with a concern about a child or vulnerable adult:
  - Volunteers are to immediately report incidents or concerns to their team leader.
  - The team leader is required to immediately contact the Manor CPT and provide the following information:
    - The name and contact number of the volunteer who raised the initial concern,
    - The tent/area they serve in, and
    - A brief summary of their concern.
  - The Manor CPT will decide what further action needs to be taken, if any.
  - If a child is in imminent danger, the volunteer and/or team leader must call 999 immediately.
  - If team leaders are unable to contact the FSO when calling the number provided above, you may call the following number: 07957675992.
4. There are appropriate recruitment and induction procedures for all new volunteers responsible for providing safe environments for children and vulnerable adults attending ISKCON festivals and are required to have the necessary DBS clearance.
5. All team leaders will have badges with the FSO's details and emergency telephone numbers.
6. There will be the availability of a quiet room where concerns can be expressed in private to the FSO.
7. For the duration of a Festival all parents/guardians/carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/wards. If they are unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibilities to an identified adult and ensure that their children/wards are aware of the identity and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all Festival venues, practice and changing areas that may be provided. The Festival cannot take responsibility for any property left unattended.
8. No unauthorised photography, audio or video recording of children and young people is allowed at our Festivals. Where parents/guardians/carers do not wish photos to be taken at all, then the responsible adult attending should ensure that their child is not included in official photos. Refer to *ISKCONS Safe Use of Children Photography Policy* for the videoing and photographing of children and retention and use of child photography.

9. ISKCON's Safeguarding Policy and approach to creating safer festivals for everyone is available and will be available on our Website.
10. By completing and signing the consent form all parents / guardians / carers of under 18 (or vulnerable adults of any age) confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for their child/ward to take part in the Festival. Without consent children will not be allowed to participate in certain activities such as volunteering at Pandava Sena or the Children's Area.