



**ST LEONARD'S GILBERT AND SULLIVAN GROUP
(HEREAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE GROUP)
CHILD MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

Statement

The Group has always had a policy to promote the work of G&S to young people. Without new blood entering any group that group will cease to exist. It is therefore The Group's policy to actively encourage young people to participate in all areas of The Group's activities. However The Group remains mostly for the participation of adults and as such the numbers of young people will be determined by the committee. For the purposes of this policy a child will be deemed to be up to their sixteenth birthday.

Entry to the group – In general no child will be allowed to join The Group until they are 8, provided a responsible adult (parental approval must be obtained if they are not the responsible adult) is with them at all times. From the ages of 12 to their sixteenth birthday they may attend on their own provided parental approval is obtained. All children will join The Group on a temporary basis for a period of six weeks to allow all parties to decide if they have sufficient maturity to join an adult group. If it is felt by the committee that membership is not suitable the child will be asked to leave for that production or concert season. This does not affect their ability to re-join The Group at a later date.

The child member will be subject to all other rules of The Group and will be expected to pay the child's annual subscription as set at the AGM to ensure that they are insured. They will be given a copy of the Constitution of The Group.

Rehearsals - No Formal licence is required for rehearsals.

Rehearsal Conduct – Rehearsals will take place on a Friday night between the hours of 7.30pm, and at the latest, 10.00pm. The child will be expected to attend on a regular basis on Friday night, as per any other member of The Group. If they fail to do so then the committee will discuss this and reserve the right to ask the child to leave the group for that performance season as per any other member of The Group. In May all members are required to attend Monday rehearsals in addition to Friday in the run up to the show. The child may request that they be excluded from this if their education would be affected as a result. The child will need to be dropped off and picked up by an appropriate adult. Collection by anybody else must be agreed with either the MD or Production Director.

The child must remain within the building of St. Leonard's Church or other place of rehearsal at all times.



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Photographs

Photographs are routinely used for promotional purposes by The Group and written permission will always be sought from parents/carers before images are used of children. The Group will ensure that no personal details are made available beyond names when publishing such material. Informal images, including video, are sometimes taken by cast members during show week. It is the responsibility of those taking the images to ensure that they cannot be then used for abusive purposes, bearing in mind The Group's Child Protection procedures and Code of Conduct.

Show Performance – A Formal licence is required from the Local Authority.

The Director or delegated member of the committee will apply for a licence for each young person in accordance with the current legislation provided by the relevant local authority.

The Director or delegated member of the committee will ensure that where appropriate current matron licences are in place.

The Director or delegated member of the committee will ask the parent or guardian of each young person to complete and provide all relevant information required to complete each licence application. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not be retained by the group longer than is required to complete the application.

The child will be required to stay in the presence of the matron at all times during the performance and must only leave the theatre into the custody of an agreed appropriate adult.

Concerts – It is the current understanding of The group that a formal licence is not required for a child, to participate in concerts provided they comply with requirements of entry to The Group. All policies and procedures apply during rehearsals and membership fees must be current.