

Oldham Photographic Society

Protection Policy

Statement of Intent

In the interest of members and any other individual that may be associated in any way with the Oldham Photographic Society, it is the intention of the Society to protect, as far as is reasonably possible, such individuals from any harm, physical, mental or emotional that may arise as a consequence of their association with the Society.

Types of Harm

1. Accidental injury at Society meetings and any other Society activity (e.g. trips, one to one tuition)
2. Physical, sexual, mental and emotional abuse
3. Protection of personal data
4. Harm arising from the use of images (competitions, appraisals, exhibitions, Internet, private showings)
5. Harm arising from inappropriate language/behaviour

Policy and Implementation Procedure

1. Accidental Injury

It is the reasonable responsibility of all Society members to ensure that the Society's environment (at meetings on the Society's premises or externally) is safe for all members, visitors and other persons. All members have a reasonable responsibility to report incidents and any perceived dangers to a Council member, who in turn has a responsibility to take appropriate action.

2. Physical, sexual, mental and emotional abuse

- I. It is the right of all members and those associated in any way with the Society to be treated with respect and safeguarded from abuse by other members. All members are expected to bring to the attention of the Council, any incident or suspicion of abuse. The Council will then decide on any action.
- II. Children and young people under the age of 18 are only accepted as members of the Society if they are accompanied at meetings by a parent, carer or responsible adult appointed by the parent or carer. It is the responsibility of the parent or carer to determine the suitability of such a responsible adult. At Society meetings, children and young people (under 18) will be accompanied at all times by a parent or responsible adult. The Society will not organise any activities that involve a child or young person under 18 being placed in a one-to-one situation with an adult.
- III. Vulnerable Adults. When an individual is recognised as being a vulnerable person, some or all of the above paragraphs relating to children may be applicable.

3. Protection of personal data

Personal data of Society members is stored on database and maintained in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data of children, young people and vulnerable adults will additionally not be divulged to anyone except authorised Data Handlers.

4. Harm arising from the use of images (competitions, appraisals, exhibitions, Internet, private showings)

- I. It is the responsibility of all members to ensure that the images that they use during the Society's activities do not contain inappropriate material. The Council of the Society is responsible for identifying and disqualifying inappropriate material from competitions, appraisals, exhibitions and the Society's website.
- II. In UK law, making, sharing and possessing indecent images of young people under 18 is illegal. Such behaviour is not condoned by Oldham PS. Any member known to break this law will have their membership terminated and will be reported to the authorities.
- III. In all images used by or at the society and at any organised photo-shoots, children must be appropriately dressed in order to maintain modesty. It is important to also be careful about giving away too much personal identification about any published images of children.
- IV. Oldham PS requires that, wherever possible, consent is obtained from the parent or carer of a child, or young person under the age of 18 years, for photographs or video recordings to be used at the society's meetings or on the website or social media. Parents retain the right to withdraw consent at any stage but they need to do so in writing.
- V. Using pictures without permission (for example, candid photographs, sport or photojournalism), if they are taken in a public place, is allowed by law, but any such images must satisfy the society's protection criteria as stated above.
- VI. All members who bring images for private showing at the Society will ensure that the content is appropriate.

5. Harm arising from inappropriate language/behaviour

All members must ensure that their language and behaviour remain respectful, inclusive, and free from offensive or inappropriate content. Members must avoid interactions that could cause discomfort, distress, or harm to others, whether intentional or not. In particular, any language or behaviour with sexual connotations is strictly prohibited, especially as children/minors are often present (Also see Code of Conduct Document).

Responsibility

The Council of the Society is responsible for ensuring that all members are aware of this policy and being alert to any incidents. The Council is further responsible for taking whatever action is necessary when an incident is identified. (Also see Code of Conduct Document, section 2 "Infringement").