**Theatre Arts Academy - Child Protection Policy**

Everyone who participates in Theatre Arts Academy is entitled to do so in a safe & enjoyable environment. Theatre Arts Academy staff have a moral and legal obligation to ensure that when given responsibility for young people, we deliver the highest standard of care.

A child or young person is defined as a person under the age of 18 (children's act 1989). Our child protection policy will be reviewed at least every three years and sooner if there is a major change in the organisation or in relevant legislation.

**Policy Statement: We are committed to the following:**

* The welfare of the child or young person is paramount.
* Everyone, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity should be able to participate in Theatre Arts Academy classes and performances in a fun and safe environment.
* Take all reasonable steps to protect children and young people from harm and discrimination and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
* All suspicions and allegations of poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
* Theatre Arts Academy staff have enhanced CRB checks to work with children.
* Make the experience of singing, dancing and acting fun and enjoyable.
* Promote fairness, treating young people equally and with respect.
* Always put the welfare of the young person first.
* Recognising the developmental needs and capacity of the young person and encouraging self confidence and independent thinking.
* Keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with details of any treatment given.
* In performance arts it is critical that everyone works together and respects each other.
* Theatre Arts Academy will not tolerate physical or verbal bullying, deliberate hurtful behaviour or behaviour that causes offence.

**Photography, Filming and Media Policy:** We allow performances to be recorded unless prohibited by the performance venue or where there may be copyright issues. Students, parents and friends are prohibited from filming or photographing in normal weekly classes or workshops. Theatre Arts Academy staff may on occasions photograph or film rehearsals, classes, workshops and performances. Any photographs or filming taken by Theatre Arts Academy staff may be used on Theatre Arts Academy flyers, The Theatre Arts Academy website, newspaper and/or magazine adverts, articles or features and Theatre Arts Academy's official Facebook or Twitter accounts. No students names will appear alongside photographs and Theatre Arts Academy will not name 'tag' students in photographs. We encourage all parents, friends and senior students who have facebook and/or twitter accounts to like/follow Theatre Arts Academy's official pages to keep up to date with news and events. Students, parents and friends are prohibited from uploading to any social media sites any photographs taken at any Theatre Arts Academy event without prior permission in writing from Theatre Arts Academy.

Parents/guardians sign to agree to our photographic policy on their child's registration form.

**Safety to and from workshops, rehearsals and performances:** Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring students arrive safely inside the building for all Theatre Arts Academy classes, workshops, rehearsals and performances and other events.

Beginners/Junior students must be collected from the building by their parent/guardian or other nominated adult on time and are not allowed to walk to the car park to look for their adult. Seniors are allowed to leave unaccompanied from normal daytime classes unless we have had a written request from the senior's parent/guardian stating otherwise. When at a performance venue or after any evening event, all students under 16 years (Juniors & Seniors) must be collected by their parent/guardian.

Concerns for a child's welfare

It is not the responsibility of those working in Theatre Arts Academy to decide if abuse may be occurring outside of our group, however we have a legal responsibility to act if concerns for a young person's welfare are raised.