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THE PERFORMING ARTS
THEATRE ACADEMY

Child Protection Policy

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THE PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE ACADEMY

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Our safeguarding policy

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of The Performing Arts Theatre Academy.

The purpose of this policy is:

- To protect children and young people who attend classes with The Performing Arts Theatre Academy. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.

The Academy believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

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We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- Sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Create a healthy, positive and safe environment for all students and ensure their physical safety
- Students will be protected from abuse, including physical emotional or social abuse, bullying or neglect

Staff Employment Checks and Training

All staff are DBS cleared before starting to work with The Academy and this is renewed every 2 years. All staff are expected to read this policy and adhere to the procedures and policies in place.

Reporting and Recording

Any incidents or concerns should be raised immediately with the Principal. This report will be logged and referred to the relevant parties, whether that is the parents or local authorities. It may be necessary to contact their school and discuss and share concerns with their teacher.

An Annex A - Child Safety Concern form must be completed in all cases and passes to the Principal.

Enclosures

Annex A - Child Safety Concern form

Now pass to the Principal or Family Support

Principal Checklist

A Checklist of actions and outcomes following child welfare concerns reported by staff or volunteers.

Childs Name	Address	DoB
Factual account of the incident or information, attached on concern form	Yes	No
Opinion (substantiated), if appropriate	Yes	No
Names and job titles of any other staff involved:	1. 2. 3.	
With whom and when was this information been shared? Give names and job titles: (Do not inform parents unless agreed by Family Support)		
Outcomes: (Call Family Support – Social Care if they have not told you the outcome of a referral within a reasonable time)		
Chronology started in child's file? (A chronology should be started if there is a referral to Family Support – Social Care)	Yes	No
Where is the information to be filed? Any cross-reference to another file or child? (child protection files should be kept separately form the child's main Academy file)		
Principal Name	Signature	

