

## Safeguarding Policy Statement

### The purpose and scope of this policy statement

- To protect all children and young people who attend Theatrics Speech and Drama lessons.
- To provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of Theatrics, including all paid staff, volunteers and students.

### Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in Northern Ireland. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/northern-ireland/>

### We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people. To keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

### We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation 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

Date: 19-05-2020

Signed: 

- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

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

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately/where needed
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- Sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via our online platforms
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made through access NI and any other relevant bodies
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- Implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely.

Related policies and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing

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- 🎬 Dealing with allegations of abuse against a child or young person
- 🎬 Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- 🎬 Safe recruitment policy and procedures
- 🎬 Adult to child supervision ratios
- 🎬 Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- 🎬 Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- 🎬 Photography and image sharing guidance
- 🎬 Child protection records retention and storage policy
- 🎬 Whistleblowing policy

### Contact details

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Date: 19-05-2020

Signed: 