



Child Protection Policy

Applause Theatre School will offer young people the opportunity to enjoy drama, music and dance through its various associated classes. All staff have a responsibility to ensure the protection and well being of the young people involved in the classes. Should there ever be cause for concern, or any allegations made AMANDA HARRIS- the Director, should be informed.

Parents are at all times encouraged to discuss issues with Amanda Harris should they have any concern regarding the safety of their child.

Amanda Harris will be responsible for instigating any necessary action should abuse be seen or alleged. All staff members should be aware that the scope for abuse is minimised if projects are run with the safety of all its participants in mind and sensible steps are taken in dealings with young people.

Should an allegation be made, the nominated staff member should record the following details:

- Name of the child
- Parent's/carer's details
- Child's address
- Relevant phone numbers
- What is said to have happened or what was seen
- When it occurred
- Who else, if anyone, was there?
- What was said by those involved
- What evidence of abuse can be recorded
- Who has been told about it
- Who was involved in the incident, and if possible record in what way concerned?
- Was the child able to say what happened, if so how did they describe it?
- Whether the parent(s) have been advised.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Any complaints of suspected or actual child abuse or of young people being put at risk must be taken seriously and acted upon immediately. If a member of staff believes that a child may be suffering, or may be at risk of suffering significant harm, then he/she will need to make Amanda Harris aware, who will inform the appropriate authorities

TYPES OF ABUSE

All staff members within a project will need to note the definitions stated below and pass on any concerns to Amanda Harris. This includes any behaviour, as stated below, that may indicate abuse elsewhere. (E.g -home, school, etc). Please note that it may be other young people who are creating the abuse, not necessarily parents, teachers or youth leaders.

Abuse states many forms. Please see below:

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, pushing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating, or other actions causing physical harm to a young person. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or undervalued. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

NEGLECT

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

The Theatre School aims to create a safe and secure environment for young people to learn and enjoy theatre and performing arts.

ALL staff will, under no circumstance, tolerate bullying, racism, or sexism.

ALL staff will report any suspicions to Amanda Harris

ALL staff will be DBS checked.

ALL staff will be aware that they are in a relationship of trust with the young people at the Theatre School. Under no circumstance should this trust be abused. Staff should note that while we are all friendly and professional, we are teachers. The young people are our responsibility and no relationship between a leader and young person should be expanded outside the realms of the Theatre School. This includes all forms of contact, including phone calls, e-mail and text messages. Should a member of staff need to contact a Theatre School pupil to discuss something to do with their class, then Amanda Harris should be informed first hand before contact is made and parents must be informed.

The Theatre School will operate a "whistle blowing" policy, whereby young people and staff can voice ANY concerns about abusive or unethical conduct. Staff & pupils should note that it takes courage to challenge inappropriate behaviour but that concerns should be voiced immediately. This will prevent further incidents and also make staff aware should anything take place in the future.

The Theatre School will follow the NSPCC's core values, which are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. They are:

- Children must be protected from all forms of violence and exploitation
- Everyone has a responsibility to support the care and protection of children
- We listen to children and young people, respect their views and respond to them directly

- Children should be encouraged and enabled to fulfil their potential
- We challenge inequalities for children and young people
- Every child must have someone to turn to

Further information regarding CHILD PROTECTION is available from:

Publications & Information Unit,
NSPCC National Centre,
42 Curtain Rd
London
EC2A 3NH

E-Mail: infounit@nspcc.org.uk

Web: www.nspcc.org.uk

Other useful information can be found at:

<http://www.barnardos.org.uk/index.jsp> or call 020 8550 8822

“Safe from Harm”- www.homeoffice.gov.uk or 020 7273 4000

“The Protection of Children Act 1999”- <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/acpc/>
or Dept. of Heath, PO Box 777, London, SE1 6XH.
Tel: 0870 600 5522