

DORSET DRAMA ACADEMY



Child Protection Policy

Introduction

The founder and principal of Dorset Drama Academy has written this policy to ensure the safeguarding of children within its care. This policy promotes the child welfare guidelines of the NSPCC. The term 'child' refers to anyone under the age of 18 who is undertaking training at Dorset Drama Academy. The term 'staff' refers to any adult working with Dorset Drama Academy whether as a volunteer, employed, freelance or administrative.

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

Statement

The Principal, Mrs. Hannah Soulsby-Phillips, is committed to creating a positive, safe environment for children to learn how to act. The Principal and staff recognise the great responsibility that comes from working with children and the trust that parents/guardians have for the school to care for their children.

Our Policy

- 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.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to promptly
- All 'staff' working with our children have a responsibility to report any concerns to the Principal, Mrs. Hannah Soulsby-Phillips
- If a parent, guardian or child has a concern regarding abuse, they are to report these to Principal Hannah Soulsby-Phillips

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
- Developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures
- 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. We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Child abuse is the term used when an adult harms a child or a young person under the age of 18. Child abuse can take four forms, all of which can cause long term damage to a child:

- 1. physical abuse**
- 2. emotional abuse**
- 3. neglect**

4. child sexual abuse.

A child may be experiencing abuse if he or she is:

- frequently dirty, hungry or inadequately dressed
- left in unsafe situations or without medical attention
- constantly "put down", insulted, sworn at or humiliated
- seems afraid of parents or carers
- severely bruised or injured
- displays sexual behaviour which doesn't seem appropriate for their age
- growing up in a home where there is domestic violence
- living with parents or carers involved in serious drug or alcohol abuse.

Confidentiality policy

All information held on our students is confidential. However, if we feel that a child may be at risk, we will immediately inform the appropriate authorities.

Filming, Photography and Public Performance

Parent/Guardian consent will be obtained prior to the child being filmed or photographed and also prior to a public performance.

Children in Performance

Appropriate authorities will be informed prior to a production and all proper licences will be obtained to cover children in performance.

Good Teaching Practice

- Children are the responsibility of Dorset Drama Academy during their class time only.
- All staff must hold current DBS disclosures. There will always be a member of staff present who holds a First Aid Certificate. These documents will always be available for viewing by parents/guardians.

- Staff members will ensure that appropriate steps are taken to ensure that the child is not at risk of injury. In the case of any physical injury, this will be recorded in the Accident book and the appropriate treatment given. Parents will be notified immediately.
- Medicines will not be administered to a child without full, written permission from the Parent/Guardian.
- Suitable and adequate supervision will be provided at all times.
- Staff members will not make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures to or in front of a child.
- Should the behaviour of a child become inappropriate and re-occurring, Parents/Guardians will be informed, and if necessary, a disciplinary procedure will be implemented.
- Decisions regarding casting for performances, examination entry and auditions lies solely with the principal and teaching staff of Dorset Drama Academy.