

Deborah Lamb Theatre School Child Protection Policy

Introduction

The Deborah Lamb Theatre School is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its performing arts students involved in attending classes in the disciplines of Dance, Drama and Singing. Our policy applies to all staff and Chaperones volunteers working in the school. All staff are expected to work within this policy to safeguard children (*under the age of 18years of age*) attending classes, rehearsal, competitions and productions organised by the Theatre School.

Underlying principles

All children deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

All children have the right to be safeguarded from harm and exploitation whatever their:

- Race, religion, first language or ethnicity
- Gender or sexuality
- Age
- Health or disability
- Location or placement
- Political or immigration status.

Responsibility for protection of children must be shared because children are safeguarded only when all relevant agencies and individuals accept responsibility and co-operate with one another.

Statements about or allegations of abuse or neglect made by children must always be taken seriously.

Roles and responsibilities

Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

All staff must be made aware of the need to be aware of child protection issues.

Ensuring safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and chaperone volunteers to work with children.

All staff & chaperones will be required to have Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) clearance.

Ensuring that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection

Parents will be expected to provide supervision for their children when an authorised chaperone is not available.

The school principal will ensure annual child protection updates for all employed staff.

Actions to be taken if child protection concerns are identified

Any concern should be notified to the school principal immediately. The principal will contact East Sussex Social Services Department with any concerns raised. Social Services Departments are responsible for investigating any concern and deciding on the course or action.

Contact numbers

East Sussex Social Services 01273 482801

NSPCC 0800 800 500

Childline 0800 1111

Ensure all staff and chaperone volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the principal who is responsible for child protection.