



PERFORMING ARTS – LIVE COMPETITIONS

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

Introduction

This policy is intended for SJ Promotions

All individuals associated with SJ Promotions, School Teachers Staff, Chaperones and Volunteers must use this policy to raise concerns about the safety of children or child protection issues by ensuring they have appropriate safeguarding training and DBS Checks in place and abide by, appropriate safeguarding policies and arrangements in their own schools.

This policy of best practice contained within this document is applicable to all at SJ Promotions.

SJ Promotions recognises that we all have a responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of all children and young people we work with and that we have an explicit duty to do so under the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and the Education Act.

The welfare of the child is of paramount importance and that no child should be treated any less favourably than others in accessing services that meet their needs.

All children, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse regardless of their gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.

A 'child' is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently, in further education, or working does not change his/ her entitlement to services or protection as a child.

Our guidelines apply to all children and young people until their 18th birthday.

The safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children and young people means:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of a child's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to ensure that children have the best life chances
- Identifying and responding to concerns about a child or young person
- Providing a safe and happy dance environment with a focus on well-being
- Having a health and safety policy and risk assessments for all events and activities
- Ensuring our approach to equality, diversity and representation is consistent at all levels of our organisation and is aligned with our anti bullying strategy.
- Ensuring all events are well staffed with individuals with appropriate training and checks

- Ensuring all staff and contractors role model safe and appropriate behaviours

Staffing

All individuals associated with SJ Promotions, School Teachers and their staff who have any contact with children and young people are required to hold a valid, clear DBS check and to have attended Safe guarding training.

Harm to Children and Child Protection

All individuals associated with SJ Promotions, School Teachers and their Staff who are working with children or young people, must be alert to the needs of children and the risk of harm. They should be able to recognise, and know how to act upon evidence that a child's health or development is being impaired or that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

It is the duty of All individuals associated with SJ Promotions, School Teachers and their staff to listen to children and young people; address any safety concerns they may have and deal with them appropriately. The voice of children and young people is vitally important and All individuals associated with SJ Promotions, School Teachers and their staff should advocate on their behalf.

Where possible, and only if it is safe to do so, All individuals associated with SJ Promotions, School Teachers and their staff who has the concern, should let the parent / carer of that child know that they intend to raise that concern with children's social care and they should seek their permission to share information. Please be aware if the parent declines to consent and your concerns regard harm/significant harm All individuals associated with SJ

Promotions, School Teachers and their staff are still duty bound to share with children's social care where it is believed there is a risk of or the experience of significant harm.

If a young person (ages 18 -25) with extended provision under the SEND code of practice is harmed / discloses harm this information should be shared with adult social care. All information sharing must be Data Protection Act and GDPR compliant.

Sharing must be discrete, appropriate, honest and accurate but it is important for All individuals associated with SJ Promotions, School Teachers and their staff to be aware GDPR and Data Protection law does not create a barrier to sharing safeguarding information and all concerns MUST be shared as necessary.

Recognising Harm and Abuse

Definitions of harm to children and young people: •

Physical abuse:

A form of abuse that may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of or deliberately causes illness in a child.

Emotional abuse:

The persistent emotional maltreatment 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, unloved, inadequate, or valued in so far as they meet the needs of another person only, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as the over protection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (or cyber bullying), causing children to frequently feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Sexual abuse:

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing or touching outside of clothing.

They may also include non contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual

images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males.

Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect:

The persistent failure to meet a child's physical and/ or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter (including exclusion from home and abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care givers); ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include an unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO RESPOND

If a child tells you they have experienced harm and abuse:

- Always listen to what the child has to say with an open mind
- Do not ask leading or probing questions
- Never stop a child who is talking freely about significant events
- Make a note of the discussion, taking care to record the timings, setting and people present, as well as what was said

- Do not ask children to make a written statement
- Never promise a child that what they have told you may be kept secret.
- Explain that you have responsibility to share information
- Inform SJ Promotions immediately

This current policy is to be renewed 6/11/2025