

Safeguarding child protection policy statement

TOADS THEATRE COMPANY acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and Torbay Council requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of drama and the performing arts, at The Little Theatre, in a safe and child centred environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in learning technical and acting skills, rehearsing and performing, or outside of the activity.

TOADS Theatre Company acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy Toads Theatre Company, through its safeguarding lead and elected committee, will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the engagement/employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation
- comply with current government guidance on Covid-19 policy (see risk assessment for advisory measures)

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in TOADS Theatre Company. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed annually, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

(Reviewed October 29th 2023)