

DoorstepArts.co.uk

WE ALL MAKE THE STORY HAPPEN

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

Safeguarding

2017/2018

1. INTRODUCTION

The welfare of the child is paramount. It is the responsibility of all staff members to protect children* (people under 18 years of age) and vulnerable adults* from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. All staff (paid/unpaid) working with Doorstep Arts has a responsibility to report concerns to Co-Directors Jade Campbell, Meghan Searle or Dr Erin Walcon.

*'Children' are defined as those under the age of 18. 'Vulnerable adults' are those who are, or may be, unable to take care of themselves from harm or exploitation of others.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Doorstep Arts are fully committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults attending any of our classes are protected and kept safe from harm.

To this end Doorstep Arts will provide a clear concise child protection policy and make it available to all of its practitioners and staff. All practitioners and staff who have unsupervised contact with children carry an enhanced DBS check.

3. POLICY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To provide a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults and keep them from harm.
- To ensure practitioners/volunteers who have direct access to children and vulnerable adults are kept informed, supported and protected.
- To ensure children and vulnerable adults are respected, listened to and taken seriously.
- To provide support and encouragement to parent/guardians/volunteers etc. to address the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

4. OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives set by Doorstep Arts to achieve these aims are:

- Raise awareness through training.
- To implement effective procedures for recording and responding to incidents, complaints and alleged or suspected abuse.

5. GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Good practice creates a positive child protection climate and assists in protecting staff from false allegations of abuse. Good practice means:

- Always working in an open environment, encouraging no secrets and unobserved or private situations.
- Treating all people equally with respect and dignity.
- Always putting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults first.
- Maintaining safe and appropriate distance (e.g. It is not appropriate to share a room/cubicle with them)
- Building a balanced, healthy and professional relationship based on mutual trust, that empowers children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Making activities fun and enjoyable.
- Keeping up to date with technical skills, qualifications and insurance.
- Being an excellent role model – this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of young people.
- Record any injuries sustained accurately according to the venues accident policy.

6. PARENTS ATTENDING SESSIONS

As part of our code of good practice, and in order to keep sessions safe, enjoyable, and fun, we operate a policy that parents/guardians do not attend or observe weekly workshops sessions, unless there is a reason why a parent presence is required (i.e. specific medical condition, behavioural need, young age or disability requires additional parental presence for particular reason). Parental presence or observation of sessions is only allowed with prior permission - if it has been discussed with staff in advance and the Lead Artist delivering the session has agreed it in collaboration with the Doorstep Directors. The end of term performance is open to all parents and guardians and other friends and family members.