

**Child Protection Policy**

20.08.25

Review date: 20.08.27

**Policy Aims**

The aim of Platform YP's Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice in:

- Providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of Platform YP
- Allow all staff/volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues

Platform YP believes that:

- The welfare of children is vital, and that safety and welfare come first in all instances.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All staff including teachers, assistants and volunteers working for Platform YP have a responsibility to report concerns to the principal or other identified staff.

Platform YP has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in our classes from harm.

All children have a right to protection and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be considered.

Platform YP will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in our stage school through adherence to the Child Protection guidelines. A child is defined as under 18 The Children Act 1989.

### **Promoting Good Practice**

Platform YP will encourage the following:

- Always working in an open environment (e.g. avoid private or unobserved situations and encouraging an open environment i.e. no secrets)
- Treating all young people/disabled adults equally, and with respect and dignity
- Always putting the welfare of each young person first, before winning or achieving goals
- Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust which empowers children to share in the decision-making process
- Making performing fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play
  - Ensuring that if any form of manual/physical support is required, it should be provided openly and according to guidelines provided by dance boards such as IDTA. Care is needed, as it is difficult to maintain hand positions when the child is constantly moving. Young people should always be consulted, and their agreement gained.
  - Ensuring that all material (i.e scripts /scene content) is age appropriate and never makes a child feel uncomfortable or concerned.
- Keeping up to date with the skills, qualifications and insurance in performing arts.
- Being an excellent role model – this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of young people, always aiming to speak in a positive manner and remembering that building confidence and ensuring the child is having a positive experience is always the main aim.
- Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism

- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given in an accident report book.
- Informing parents if any child is taken ill or injured during class.
- Never offering or allowing children to be transported home or to events in teacher's cars.
- Ensuring that children switch off mobile phones in all lessons.

**The following practice not acceptable. A teacher should never:**

- Reduce a child to tears as a form of control
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- Do things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves

**Guidelines for use of photographic filming**

Platform YP does not allow any filming or photographing to take place UNLESS; We have signed consent in advance from parents.

We do not allow parents to take photos of their children in shows, nor to make videos.

We hire professional, DBS checked photographers and videographers and parents are given the option to purchase photographs of their own child.

We ask all children to put mobile phones away in bags, completely out of sight before starting a class.

**Recruitment and selecting staff and volunteers**

Platform YP recognises that anyone may have the potential to abuse children in some way and that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children. When undertaking preselection checks the following should be included:

\* All our staff; freelance / volunteers / assistants, should complete an application form. This will elicit information about an applicant's past and a self-disclosure about any criminal record

- Consent should be obtained from an applicant to seek information from the Criminal Records Bureau (DBS CHECK)
- Two confidential references, including one regarding previous work with children. These references must be taken up and confirmed through telephone contact
- Evidence of identity (passport or driving licence with photo)

### **Responding to suspicions or allegations**

It is not the responsibility of anyone working at Platform YP to decide whether child abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities. Platform YP will assure all staff/volunteers that it will fully support and protect anyone, who in good faith reports his or her concern that a colleague/volunteer is or may be abusing a child. When there is a complaint against a member of staff there may be three types of investigation:

- A criminal investigation.
- A child protection investigation.
- A disciplinary or misconduct investigation.

The results of the police and child protection investigation may well influence the disciplinary investigation.

## **Suspected abuse**

Any suspicion that a child has been abused by either a member of staff or a volunteer, or out with Platform YP should be reported to the Safeguarding Lead, Tracey Eley, who will take such steps as considered necessary to ensure the safety of the child in question and any other child who may be at risk. Platform YP follows NSPCC guidance, and all staff undertake NSPCC safeguarding training.

## **Action to help the victim and prevent bullying in performing**

- Have a zero tolerance policy to bullying
- Take all signs of bullying very seriously
- Encourage all children to speak and share their concerns
- Help the victim to speak out and tell the person in charge or someone of authority
- Create an open environment
- Investigate all allegations and take action to ensure the victim is safe

## **Contact Details**

### **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)**

Tracey Eley

Phone - 07471506689

Email - [tracey@platformyp.co.uk](mailto:tracey@platformyp.co.uk)