



FISHER YOUTH THEATRE GROUP

CHILD WELFARE POLICY

We believe that every child and young person has at all times and in all situations a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that could result in a child or young person being physically or emotionally harmed. In our group, if we have suspicion about a child's physical, sexual or emotional well being, we will take action.

We recognizing that all children should be: -

- Listened to and heard
- Valued and respected as individuals
- Respected for their identity and uniqueness
- Encouraged and praised
- Involved in decisions as appropriate of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

A major part of the Fisher Youth Theatre Group's responsibility for children and young people in our care is to ensure their safety and wellbeing at all times.

To help us do this effectively we have implemented a Child Protection and Health and Safety policy which is designed to protect all the children and young people who are members of our Youth Theatre.

In addition there is a set of Youth Theatre Group Guidelines which all children and young people who are members of our Youth Theatre Group need to observe.

Child Protection Policy Statement

The Fisher Youth Theatre Group's aim is to create and maintain the safest possible environment for children and young people to enjoy rewarding

and stimulating experiences, whilst participating in the Group's activities; including workshops and performances.

We will endeavour to safeguard children by:

- Recognizing that all children have the right to freedom from abuse.
- Ensuring that all our staff and volunteers are carefully selected and accept responsibility for helping prevent the abuse of children in their care
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse, and sharing information with agencies that need to know and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Appoint a Child Protection Officer who will act as the main point of contact for staff, volunteers, parents, children and outside agencies.
- Ensuring access to confidential information is restricted to the appropriate officers of the Fisher Youth Theatre Group Committee and if necessary the appropriate external authorities.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of our Child Protection Policy annually.

Health and Safety Policy Statement

The Fisher Youth Theatre Group will endeavour to provide and maintain a safe and healthy working environment for all its staff, guests and members of the Youth Theatre while participating in activities, rehearsals and performances undertaken by the Group

Our arrangements, which include a risk assessment undertaken at the beginning of each activity, can be provided upon request from the Fisher Youth Theatre Group committee.

Fisher Youth Theatre Company Rules

- Always register with your director, workshop leader or the assisting adult 'volunteer' upon arrival to and departure from rehearsals, workshops and performances.
- Always arrive in plenty of time for each workshop, rehearsal and performance.
- Always phone your director if you will be arriving late or cannot attend for an unavoidable reason.
- Always consider all staff working at the theatre. Do not run or shout either backstage, front of house or in the foyer areas.
- Do not bring in any valuable items unless you absolutely have to. Everything you bring in is your responsibility and the Group cannot be held responsible for loss or damage.
- Always respect the environment you are in and clean away all of your rubbish in the bins provided.

- Always listen to your director, other staff members and volunteers and respect them when they are talking. You should not talk when you have been asked to remain quiet; you may miss some important information.
- Always tell a member of staff if you are involved in an accident.
- Always tell a member of staff if you have, or witness, any problems.
- Always switch your mobile phone off at the start of each session.
- Do not take anything from the building without permission
- Do not eat or chew gum during rehearsals or the workshop session without permission from your director or the adult 'volunteer' assisting.
- Do not smoke anywhere in or around the theatre or the building where workshops or rehearsals take place.
- Do not swear at anytime in or around the theatre or the building where workshops or rehearsals take place.
- Do not physically or emotionally bully any member of the Fisher Youth Theatre Group.
- Always treat others as you wish to be treated yourself.

Always follow these rules and you will create a safe and happy working environment that will allow everybody, including yourself, to have fun and enjoy a rewarding and stimulating experience.