



## Safeguarding Policy Statement

### **The purpose of this policy statement is:**

- To protect children and young people who receive Vault Theatre Academy's (also referred to as VTA) services from harm.
- To provide staff, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working for and/or on behalf of VTA.

### ***Legal framework***

This policy has been drawn up based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England, Scotland & Wales.

### ***Supporting documents***

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents, including:

- *Role description for the Head of Safeguarding*
- *Handling a Disclosure*
- *Allegations against members of staff*
- *Recording concerns and information sharing*
- *Behaviour Codes of Conducts for staff, children and parents*
- *Photography and sharing images guidance*
- *New Employees Guidance*
- *Online safety including social media agreement*
- *Anti-bullying statement*
- *Complaints*
- *Whistleblowing*



## **Safeguarding Policy Statement**

### **We believe that:**

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them.

### **We recognise that:**

- The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, careers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare

### **We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:**

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff
- Recruiting and selecting staff safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against our children, young people, staff and representatives appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people and staff, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff, children and young people treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.



## Safeguarding Policy Statement

**Contact details:**

*Head of Safeguarding*

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**This policy statement came into force on:**

2nd March 2022

**We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.**

Signed: L.SPAVEN (Head of Safeguarding)

Signed: M.MCCREDIE (Head of Academy)

This policy statement and accompanying procedures were last reviewed on: 2nd March 2022

Signed: L.SPAVEN

Date: 2.3.22