

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 18

The following guidelines provide a framework within which children should be safe from harm and adults protected from false allegations and temptations. It is necessary to be accountable to one another in relation to these guidelines.

- Each child should be aware of a leader with whom they can speak, in confidence.
- Unless you hold a DBS check, do make sure another adult is around during workshop or rehearsal sessions and never rehearse one to one with a child, only in groups.
- Every group should have a female helper.
- Children 16 and under (to the end of year 11) are supervised by licensed chaperones during dress rehearsals and shows. They have to follow rules and regulations so may deny you access to a dressing room/a child. Be aware that they are not being difficult, they are following the law.
- Respect all children, as befits their age.
- Do watch speech, tone of voice and body language.
- Do control and maintain discipline WITHOUT physical punishment, i.e. No smacking.
- Do not invade a child's privacy whilst washing or toileting.
- Do not play rough physical or sexually provocative games.
- Do not be sexually suggestive about or to a young person even in fun.
- Do not touch inappropriately or intrusively.
- Do not scapegoat, ridicule or reject a child or young person.
- Do not show favouritism to any one child.
- Do not allow children to involve you in excessive attention seeking that is overtly physical or sexual in nature.
- Never give a lift to a young person or child when alone. When this is not avoidable, ask the child to sit in the back of the car.
- Do not invite a young person back to your house alone. Invite a group.
- Supervise the children carefully, and do not permit bullying or ridiculing.
- Do not allow unknown adults access to children.

If you are an adult cast or crew member working on a production involving children, you will be asked to sign an agreement that you have read and will adhere to these guidelines.