

MJFSD Safe Guarding Policy - shows/events

updated May 2024

Joanne Farnell believes that:

- The welfare of children is vital.
- 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 (paid/voluntary) working at an event have a responsibility to report concerns to the child protection officer, Joanne farnell

Policy Statement

Joanne Farnell has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in its events from harm. All children have a right to protection and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. Joanne Farnell will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in events through adherence to the Child Protection guidelines.

A child is defined as under 18 in The Children Act 1989.

Policy Aims

The aim of this Safeguarding Policy is to promote good practice:

- Providing children, young people and adults with appropriate safety and protection whilst taking part in events organised.
- Allow all staff/volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

Promoting Good Practice

Joanne Farnell will encourage the following:

- When groups are supervised at events this must be by qualified teachers, dance teachers, dance artists, parents/carers – **all with current DBS certification and Chaperone Licenses**
. (In some circumstances this can be by the child's own parent who does not require a DBS. But this parent may not chaperone other children, without a chaperone license.) All shows are now fully licensed chaperoned events
- Groups should be chaperoned* in the ratio 1:10 pupils but with a minimum of two chaperones. Younger children and those with additional needs will have more chaperones in line with local authority and theatre guidelines – see risk assessment document for details.

- Chaperones are responsible for ensuring children are collected by their parent/carer at the end of the event.

** the term chaperone is used to cover teachers, dance teachers, dance artists, parents/carers or local authority approved chaperones, who work with and are known to the children being cared for and have current DBS and chaperone certification.*

- All content of events will be suitable for a family audience.
- All pupils taking part in events will secure the consent of parents/carers for the filming of the show by a professional company only. Parents/carers/audience must not film the live performances.
- All pupils taking part are given a stage safety briefing, by Joanne Farnell and the venue technicians, at their technical rehearsal on stage.
- All chaperones should be familiar with their own risk assessment and that of the event, and brief the children in their care with the do's and don'ts of the event.
- All chaperones will keep adequate emergency contact and medical details of the children in their care and complete time sheets
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- Treating all young people/disabled people/adults equally, and with respect and dignity.
- Always putting the welfare of each young person first.
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with dancers.
- Ensuring that if any form of manual/physical support is required, it should be provided openly and according to guidelines provided by the IDTA.
- Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- Recognising the developments/ needs and capacity of young people and disabled adults
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- First Aiders present at all events
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- First Aid Box and book to be taken to any event
- Securing parental consent in writing to act in loco parentis, if the need arises to give permission for the administration of emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment.
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.

Practice to be Avoided

The following should be avoided except in emergencies. If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable they should only occur with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge or the child's parents.

- Avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.

Selecting staff and volunteers

Miss Joanne Farnell 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.

No unauthorised adult will be allowed backstage. Where access is required by an official and is deemed necessary and appropriate, Joanne Farnell will authorise access, ID and current DBS certificate.

Responding to suspicions or allegations:

It is not the responsibility of anyone taking part in the event, in a paid or unpaid capacity to take responsibility or to decide whether or not a child is at risk. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities.

Joanne Farnell will assure all staff/volunteers that it will fully support and protect anyone, who in good faith, reports his or her concern that a child is at risk.

When there is a complaint, there may be two types of investigation:

- A criminal investigation.
- A child protection investigation.

Any suspicion that a child is at risk should be reported to the child protection officer (Joanne Farnell) immediately, 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.