

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY – SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Organisational Structure

Blue Box Entertainment Ltd trades as West End in Schools. This policy applies to all Blue Box Entertainment Ltd activities and the phrase “Blue Box” in this document refers to Blue Box Entertainment Ltd.

Policy Statement

Blue Box believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by a commitment to practice which protects them.

We aim to provide safe participatory and creative opportunities for all the children and young people who attend our performances or workshops.

Blue Box artists will always co-operate with headteachers and with each school’s child protection arrangements recognising the expertise schools and teachers hold in this area.

As an organisation that works with children Blue Box firmly believes that:

- All children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language or religious beliefs have the right to protection from abuse and to a happy and healthy childhood. The needs of disabled children or those who may be particularly vulnerable should also be taken into account.
- Child abuse in whatever form is unacceptable and should be brought to the attention of the proper authorities.
- Everyone working with children and vulnerable adults have a responsibility not to endanger the safety and wellbeing of any child. Children should feel safe and able to speak out if this is not the case.
- The use of photography and video to document our work should only be done in consultation and agreement with schools.

The Role of the Company and the School

Schools regularly engage Blue Box to provide specialist experiences for their children, for example via musical theatre performances, dance or drama workshops.

Our artists visit schools to use their specialist skills to deliver these experiences. When working in a school Blue Box artists will always liaise effectively with the school staff regarding child safeguarding matters.

Practical Responses to the Policy Statement

1. All artists are DBS checked.
2. Artists will co-operate in any way that is reasonably required by headteachers or appropriate school staff in order to reduce any perceived risks to the children attending the activity.
3. Artists are required to raise with the school any matters that they feel may endanger children in a performance or workshop.
4. Artists and other Blue Box staff are required to draw any child protection concern – and specifically any disclosure made by a child – to the attention of a teacher and to the Blue Box office immediately, and to provide whatever reasonable assistance the relevant authority or headteacher requires.
5. Artists are required to avoid taking on responsibility for tasks for which they are not appropriately trained.

Enhanced DBS check validity

Artists must hold an Enhanced DBS check issued within the last three years, or be subscribed to the DBS update service. DBS checks organised by other employers are acceptable.

Physical Contact

When required by the nature of aspects of our work (for example dance workshops) there may be limited physical contact between artists and children, and also between the participating children.

Responsibility

The person responsible for this policy is Nigel Godfrey, the director of the company. This policy was last updated in October 2019 and will be reviewed annually.