



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

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The Child Protection Policy seeks to support the child's development in ways which will foster security, confidence and independence. It should be regarded as central to the well-being of the individual and is therefore seen to be an intrinsic part of all aspects of the activities within the group.

Aims

Medway Academy of Performing Arts aims to establish a caring environment within which the personal and social potential of each child will be developed. The pastoral dimension permeates all performing arts activities.

We have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge and we will carry out this duty to ensure a caring, supportive and safe environment.

Principles

Our Child Protection Policy is based on the following Principles:

- The child's welfare must always be paramount.
- Children must always have a right to be heard, to be listened to and to be taken seriously.
- Parents/carers have a right to respect but a proper balance must be struck between ensuring this and protecting children.
- Every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm and have proper care given to their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being,

Safeguarding Team

Members of the Safeguarding team are:

Child Protection Officer: Owen McColgan & Jamie Knights

Members of the team have clear roles and responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding of pupils within the group.

In order to protect our pupils, we at Medway Academy of Performing Arts will adhere to the following procedures.

- All staff and volunteers will have clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect is suspected.
- All staff and volunteers will undergo a vetting procedure in order to maintain the highest standard of professional care towards our children.
- Children will be supervised at all times while in class and during break periods.
- Written parental consent will be obtained before a student (or group of students) embarks on a visit outside the class venue.
- Children under 11 years must be collected by an adult. **CHILDREN WILL NOT BE RELEASED FROM LESSONS OTHERWISE.**
- All parents/carers are not permitted in teaching areas. If parents/carers wish to remain on site for the duration of the lesson they must remain in the reception or coffee shop facilities.
- Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and will be responded to sensitively in our group. All staff will be vigilant at all times and will aim to prevent bullying within the group.

- Medway Academy of Performing Arts has a zero-tolerance policy on bullying. Any reported instances will be investigated and may result in removal from the academy.
- All staff at Medway Academy of Performing Arts will ensure that children are aware of who they can talk to if they are sad, worried, being bullied or have any other concerns.
- It is a legal requirement that all those working with children must co-operate fully with social services and other agencies to protect children. It is therefore our duty to refer if there is a concern about any form of abuse.

This policy will be reviewed annually and issued to parents once every two years. Should you have any questions to ask or comments to make in relation to the content of this policy, please do not hesitate to contact Owen McColgan or Jamie Knights.