



Flat 9 Carmine Court Bromley W: www.harlequins-theatre.com E: info@harlequins-theatre.com P: 020 3740 9573

Harlequins Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Harlequins Theatre School recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young Person Act 1963, The Child (Performances) Regulations 1968, The Protection of Children Act 1999, The Child Protection Act 2004 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Harlequins Theatre School recognises that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. Harlequins Theatre School is committed to protect children from harm.

All members of Harlequins Theatre School accept and recognise their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues, which cause children harm.

Harlequins Theatre School believes that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- 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 should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All members and employees of the school should be clear on how to respond appropriately

Harlequins Theatre School will ensure that:

- All children will be treated equally with respect and dignity
- The welfare of each child will always be put first
- A balanced relationship based on mutual trust will be built which empowers the children to share in the decision process
 - Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given, rather than negative criticism
 - Bullying will not be accepted nor condoned
- All adult members of the society provide a positive role model for dealing with other people
 - Action will be taken to stop and inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour
 - It will keep up to date with health and safety legislation
 - It will keep informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children
- It will hold a register of every child involved with the class and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies

If a student discloses any safeguarding issues to a teacher or a teacher witnesses something that concerns them they will:

- Listen carefully and quietly and not ask any questions that may lead the student's answer
- Make a confidential record of the incident and seek advice from the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Write up a report with the DSL that includes exactly what happened
- The DSL will then take the next appropriate steps which may include speaking to parents, informing the local authority or MASH