

## **Dirty Protest Theatre Online Safety Policy Statement**

Date: June 2021

This policy should be read alongside Dirty Protest Theatre's policies and procedures on child protection and safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

### **The purpose of this policy statement**

Dirty Protest Theatre works with children, young people, vulnerable adults and families as part of its activities. These include: workshops, new play development, performance and other arts activity, in-person and also online.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices
- provide staff, freelancers and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety in particular
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within legal frameworks in terms of how we use online devices. The policy statement applies to all staff, freelancers, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in Dirty Protest Theatre's activities.

The policy statement recognises and incorporates the principles set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, **and relates to any child or young person under the age of 18 years.**

### **Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children and young people in Wales. This includes the Children Act 1989 and amended in 2004, Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act 2014 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/contents>, and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2>

Summaries of the key legislation and guidance from Welsh Government are available on:

- Keeping safe online: enhancing digital resilience in Wales action plan to protect children and young people online (updated 2021): <https://hwb.gov.wales/zones/keeping-safe-online/enhancing-digital-resilience-in-education-an-action-plan-to-protect-children-and-young-people-online/>

General guidance from NSPCC on protecting children from online abuse are available on:

- online abuse <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse>
- online bullying <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying>

This is in addition to Dirty Protest Theatre's comprehensive safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures

## **Policy Statement**

Dirty Protest Theatre believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- children and young people should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

Dirty Protest Theatre recognise that:

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however it can also present risks and challenges
- we have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using Dirty Protest Theatre's network, WiFi and/or devices
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

Dirty Protest Theatre will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- appointing an online safety coordinator for each activity. This may or may not be the same person as the nominated child protection lead or Designated Safeguarding Person
- ensuring correct DBS check procedures are followed where staff, freelancers or volunteers, where appropriate as outlined in our safeguarding and child protection Policy
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online
- supporting and encouraging the young people engaging with us to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- developing an online safety agreement for use with young people and their parents/carers
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child/young person in line with our safeguarding and child protection Policy
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that user names, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children and young people who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate

- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

If online abuse occurs, Dirty Protest Theatre will respond to it by:

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse) – included in our safeguarding and child protection policy
- providing support where needed for staff, freelancers and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account
- reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

### **Related policies and procedures**

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- *Dirty Protest Theatre Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy*

### **Contact details**

Senior lead for safeguarding and child protection for Dirty Protest Theatre:

Name: Catherine Paskell, Artistic Director of Dirty Protest Theatre

Phone/email: 07825719181 catherine@dirtyprotesttheatre.co.uk

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

Police 101

CHILDREN'S SERVICES – as at June 2021

For the most up to date contact details for local safeguarding boards:

<https://gov.wales/reporting-suspected-abuse-harm-or-neglect-safeguarding>

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on:

16 June 2021 .....

Signed: Catherine Paskell.....

Date: 16/6/21.....

## Appendix 1:

### GUIDANCE ON RESPONDING TO E-SAFETY - FLOW CHART

