



## **Courtyard Youth Theatre Behaviour Management Policy**

The Courtyard uses effective behaviour management strategies to promote the welfare and enjoyment of children attending the workshop. Working in partnership with parents/carers, we aim to manage behaviour using clear, consistent and positive strategies, and with adults modelling positive behaviour. The rules are clearly displayed at every session and are discussed regularly.

This policy is in full compliance with The Courtyard's Safe Guarding Policy

### **Purpose of the Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to set out the expected behaviour for any youth theatre session, workshop or rehearsal at The Courtyard, similar arts centre or theatre or any of its sister sites.

### **Overview**

The policy laid out below sets out the behaviour which is expected by both members of the youth theatre and the practitioners. It covers the following:

- Expected behaviour,
- How positive behaviour will be encouraged,
- How to deal with inappropriate behaviour,
- Setting Interventions or sanctions
- Addressing online behaviour

### **Expected Behaviour**

When taking part in a Youth Theatre Session, Workshop or rehearsal we expect youth theatre members to:

- Use socially acceptable behaviour
- Comply with the workshop rules which will be laid out clearly by practitioners at the start of the week
- Respect one another, accepting differences including race, gender, ability, age and religion
- Develop their independence by maintaining self-discipline
- Participate in a variety of activities
- Ask for help if needed
- Enjoy their time in the session



## Encouraging positive behaviour

In Sessions and workshops, positive behaviour is encouraged by:

- Staff acting as positive role models
- Praising appropriate behaviour
- Establishing a praise system if needed
- Informing parents/carers about individual achievements
- Offering a variety of play opportunities to meet the needs of the children attending

It is inevitable that as children develop and learn, there are times when they need support and guidance to understand that their behaviour is not acceptable. Practitioners at the workshop will try to determine the cause or triggers of the inappropriate behaviour to prevent the situation from recurring.

## Dealing with inappropriate behaviour

- Challenging behaviour will be addressed in a calm, firm and positive manner
- In the first instance, the child will be temporarily removed from the activity
- Practitioners will discuss why the behaviour displayed is deemed inappropriate
- The practitioner will give the child the opportunity to explain their behaviour, to help prevent a recurrence
- Practitioners will encourage and facilitate mediation between children to try to resolve conflicts through discussion and negotiation
- If the inappropriate behaviour appears to be as a result of boredom, practitioners will consult with the child to find activities that more fully engage them
- Practitioners will consult with parents/carers to formulate clear strategies for dealing with persistent inappropriate behaviour
- No staff member will ever threaten any punishment that could adversely affect a child's well-being (eg withdrawal of food or drink)

If after consultation with parents/carers and the implementation of behaviour management strategies, a child continues to display inappropriate behaviour, the Courtyard may decide to exclude the child from the session, rehearsal or workshop. The reasons and processes will be clearly explained to the child. If behaviour by a youth theatre is deemed consistently inappropriate and has or will cause harm to either a member of the group or the public, then they will no longer be able to attend the youth theatre. All appropriate steps will be taken to prevent this.

## Physical Intervention

Physical intervention will only be used as a last resort, when a practitioner believes that action is necessary to prevent injury to the child or others, or to prevent significant damage to equipment or property. If a member of staff has to physically restrain a child, the manager will be notified and an **incident report** will be completed. The incident will be discussed with the parent/carer as soon as possible.

If staff are not confident about their ability to contain a situation, they should call the manager or, in extreme cases, the police.



All serious incidents will be recorded on an **incident report** and filed. This may be used to build a pattern of behaviour, which may indicate an underlying cause. If a pattern of incidents indicates possible abuse, we will implement child protection procedures in accordance with our **Safeguarding policy**.

### **Interventions and Punishments**

Corporal punishment or the threat of corporal punishment will *never* be used at the venue.

We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that no child who attends the youth theatre receives corporal punishment from any person who cares for or is in regular contact with the child, or from any other person on our premises.

If a youth theatre member breaks any of the expected behavioural points, then in the first instance the practitioner will speak to them. If they have to speak several times and there is no improvement in behaviour, then the practitioner will have to speak with parent either immediately after the session or phone home at an appropriate time.

If behaviour has still not improved, then the parents will receive a written warning and either the youth theatre will be asked to leave or further consultation will be required when meeting with the child's parent or carer.

### **Online Behaviour**

At no point will any member of the youth theatre be allowed their phone or similar device in a session, rehearsal or workshop.

At no point should a youth theatre member be on a social media site during a session or rehearsal.

No information should ever be shared with a member of the youth theatre online, and at all times, practitioners should adhere to the safeguarding policy on online content.

If youth theatre members are sending each other inappropriate messages during the session's phones will be confiscated until the end of the session.

If youth theatre members are messaging each other inappropriate messages outside of the youth theatre, then this is a matter for the parents/carers or the police to deal with.

All youth theatre members are expected to behaviour in a respectful manner towards each other and their leaders. This policy serves to help promote good behaviour and to assist in support the young people of today.

<b>This policy was adopted by:</b> The Courtyard	<b>Date:</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
<b>To be reviewed:</b> Sept 2024	<b>Signed:</b> <i>E. Dorsett</i>



Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Managing children's behaviour [3.53-3.54]*.

In partnership with



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