

Act One TV & Theatre School is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people.

It recognises its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation. Act One TV & Theatre School acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

All staff and volunteers will endeavour to work together to encourage the development of an ethos which embraces difference and diversity and respects the rights of children, young people and adults. Act One TV & Theatre School recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014, the Children Act 1989 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013.

Act One TV & Theatre School believes that:

- We have a responsibility to safeguard the welfare of the children we teach and to ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are in place so that a child may take part in classes and shows within a safe and secure environment.
- 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 Act One TV & Theatre School should be clear on how to respond appropriately.

Act One TV & Theatre School will ensure that:

1. We provide an environment in which children are safe, can learn and develop at their own pace and are aware that there are always adults in whom they can trust.
2. All children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity.
3. The welfare of each child will always be put first.
4. Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism.
5. Bullying will not be accepted or condoned.
6. All staff/volunteers provide a positive role model for dealing with other people.
7. Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour.
8. It will work with the venues we hire to provide a safe and secure environment.
9. It will endeavour to keep up to date with changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children and health and safety.
10. It will hold a register of every child involved with the school and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

This policy should also be read in conjunction with our Equal Opportunities Policy.

The school has a dedicated Child Protection/Welfare Officer, who is in charge of ensuring that the child protection policy and procedures are adhered to.

In implementing this child protection policy Act One TV & Theatre School will:

1. Communicate to all staff/volunteers their legal and moral responsibility to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation.
2. Communicate to all staff/volunteers their responsibility to work to the standards that are detailed herein and the need to work at all times towards maintaining high standards of practice in protection of children.
3. Ensure that all staff/volunteers understand their duty to report concerns that arise about a child or young person, or any staff/volunteers conduct towards a child/young person, to the school's named person for child protection.

4. Ensure that the school's named person for child protection understands his/her responsibility to refer any child protection concerns to the statutory child protection agencies (i.e. Police and/or Children's Social Care).
5. Ensure that any procedures relating to the conduct of staff/volunteers are implemented in a consistent and equitable manner.
6. Ensure the children/young people and their parents or carers have access to and can comment upon this child protection policy and its procedures.

This policy will be regularly monitored by the Principal of the school and will be subject to annual review.

Designated Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Rebecca Wood