

Child Protection Statement

Perform Festival as a BIFF Federation / AED member use their guidance and best practice to create **Safer Festivals** for everyone and as a basis for our Child Protection statement and Safeguarding & Child protection policy and procedure documents. We are committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to best practice and current guidance which applies to our organisers, volunteers, Adjudicators, students or anyone working on behalf of Perform Festivals, the BIFF Federation or AED.

The full Perform Festival Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy & Procedures is available to view on the website www.performevents.co.uk or available at the festival front desk.

The safety of children and members of other vulnerable groups is paramount and all, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately, and all the festival staff and volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child/young person is paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, 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.

The purpose of our policy and policy statement:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who participate in our festivals, including the children of festival members.
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

FESTIVAL ENVIRONMENT

The festival is run primarily by volunteers, and endeavours to work with schools, teachers, parents/guardians/carers and adjudicators to provide a safe environment for all competing children, as far as is reasonably practical. Please be aware that the festival is held in a venue that maybe open to the general public.

For the duration of the festival all teachers/parents/guardians/carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/pupils/vulnerable adults. If they are unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibilities to an identified adult and ensure that their children/pupils/vulnerable adults are aware of the identity and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all festival venues, performance, practice and changing areas that may be provided. Please note the festival will undertake to supervise performers in all backstage areas unless responsible adults are invited to accompany them (e.g. for Pre-Junior classes).

It is the policy of our festival to inform and involve parents/guardians/carers and teachers to ensure, as far as it is reasonably practicable, a safe environment at our festival. We do this by ensuring that this statement is available in the festival syllabus and programme with links to our full Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy & Procedures which can be viewed on our website and via the front desk throughout the festival.

SAFETY OF PERFORMERS

It is necessary for teachers and parents to be aware of their responsibilities in entering any performers and to bear in mind the limitations imposed by the stage and surrounding environment.

APPLICATION OF OUR STATEMENT AND POLICY

This relates to all children under the age of 18 years and members of vulnerable groups of any age. Some children and vulnerable adults may have specific needs in order to take part. If this is the case we ask the responsible teachers/parents/guardians/carers to contact the festival organisers prior to arrival. The festival actively seeks wherever possible to meet these needs, and to know beforehand gives us the best opportunity to prepare the required support.

FESTIVAL PERSONNEL

All festival staff/volunteers wear an identity badge and during the festival, the organiser, or the person appointed in their absence, will be contactable via the front desk. All teachers/parents/guardians/carers are asked to report all incidents of any nature to anyone wearing a festival identity badge. All reported incidents will be taken seriously handled in accordance with the **Safe Working Practice** and **Festival Child Protection** best practice advice and documented. In addition, each festival will ensure the availability of a quiet area / room where concerns can be expressed in private.

PREPARATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT FESTIVAL

The Perform Festival's 'Child Protection Statement' is published explicitly in our syllabus and programme with a link to the full Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy & Procedure on our website (www.performevents.co.uk). By completing the entry process all parents/carers and teachers of entrants under 18 (or vulnerable adults of any age) confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the entrants to take part in the festival.

By making the entries the teachers are confirming that all parents/carers are aware of and agree to the Child protection and safeguarding measures in place.

CHANGING AREA

All changing rooms are gender neutral and will be clearly indicated by means of signage on changing room doors. Changing pods are provided and all changing MUST take place within these. If a child requires assistance with changing, their parent/carer must fully enter the pod with them. These areas will be monitored by Perform Event Festival volunteers to ensure this is being adhered to.

We request that only the responsible adult for the dancer accompany them in the changing room and you vacate once your section has finished.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Perform Events Festivals are committed to treating each individual as a person in their own right, with equal rights and responsibilities for all, whether they are an adult or a child. Discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, race, religion or belief, disability, sexual orientation, ethnic or national origin, or political belief has no place within this organisation.

PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEO RECORDING AND PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY

Video recording and photography of any kind are prohibited in the auditorium at all times with no unauthorised photography or video recording throughout the rest of the festival areas. Teachers give approval for official photography and the use of photos by Perform Festival at the point of making entries. If a child/young person is not to be photographed this information can be collated and easily available to staff/volunteers.

LEGISLATION SUPPORTING THIS POLICY

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974; The Children Act 1989; The Police Act 1997; The Data Protection Act 1998; The Human Rights Act 1998; The Protection of Children Act 1999; The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, The Children Act 2004. The Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

POLICY REVIEW

The Festival organisers will constantly review their policy, revising and enhancing it as necessary. In doing this, they will look to the British Federation and International Federation of Festivals for support and that body, in turn, will look to other agencies for evidence of good practice, most notably the Arts Council of England and NSPCC policy guidelines.

FESTIVAL SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (FSO)

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DEPUTY FESTIVAL SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (FSO)

Mrs Emma Barnard

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The Child Protection Statement and Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy & Procedures will be reviewed on an annual basis or sooner if required.

September 2025