

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

YOUNG MASTERS VISUAL ARTS SCHOOL CHARITY

This policy applies to all management, teachers, assistants, volunteers and guest artists working for Young Masters. All staff should have access to further training and support in matters of Child Protection.

As an organisation Young Masters Visual Art School is committed to the safeguarding and welfare of all children placed in its care. We define safeguarding in the following way:

- **Protection** from harm/ maltreatment
- **Prevention** of impairment of development
- Taking action to ensure that each child is able to reach their **potential**

This means that all children should be entitled to the same offer of opportunity regardless of race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion or language.

In this policy we focus specifically on detecting abuse, bullying, e-safety, safety of equipment and reporting incidents.

Detecting abuse

There are four categories of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual and neglect.

Child abuse is defined as applying to those who “are suffering, or are likely to suffer significant harm, where ‘harm’ means ill-treatment or standing in the way of development”

As staff we must be aware of all of the connotations of the term abuse, and be ready to recognise cases of abuse where they may be present. We must be aware of a child’s individual needs and circumstances, look for any changes in behaviour, and be open to listening to children when placed in a position of trust.

Bullying

Bullying can occur between children, between staff, or across ages and job roles, even from external influencers such as parents or siblings.

It is important that we remain aware of the dynamics of classroom relationships, and of any bullying that may affect children within our care both in and out of class hours.

Any suspicions or allegations should be raised sensitively with the relevant parties, including other children and parents where appropriate, and should be taken to the Child Protection Officer. If a situation persists, further steps should be taken and it should always remain clear that at Young Masters we take a zero tolerance approach to bullying.

E-safety

Whilst the computer technology and the internet does not play a large part in our work at Young Masters, staff should remain aware of the potential threats that children could be exposed to. We ensure e-safety in the following ways:

- If technology is to be used as an integral part of any lesson, it is essential that all content and access is age and topic appropriate.
- No photographs of children or staff should be published online or otherwise without specific prior consent, and they should only be used in the context for which the consent was given
- No personal information should be published without specific consent, and no image of a child should be published in conjunction with their name on social media
- Existing technologies must have appropriate security installed
- Any new technologies adopted should be risk assessed before implementation

Safety of equipment

As an arts organisation we use equipment that may be deemed unsafe within other contexts or without suitable supervision, and so it is of the upmost importance that all equipment usage has been appropriately assessed. To ensure this:

- Each lesson should be planned in advance, with a list of materials provided that is to be agreed by consensus and director consent.
- A risk assessment form should be filled out for lessons that require equipment outside of regular demands
- Staff should be trained in the handing and usage of equipment
- Children should be taught to use equipment safely, and their ability should be determined before being allowed to proceed independently
- A first aid box must be present in all locations at all classes

Reporting an incident

In case of an incident staff members must calmly and sympathetically gather any information, proceed to log this in the incident report book and inform the Child Protection Officer as soon as is reasonably possible in necessary cases. It is then the duty of the Child Protection Officer to liaise with and inform all other relevant bodies, and talk directly to the child. Staff should receive support and guidance where needed in cases that may be traumatic or difficult.

The Child Protection Officer nominated by this school to refer all allegations or suspicions of abuse to the statutory authorities is:

Gemma Hobbs (07983 560273)

In the absence of this person any incidents should be referred to the second named person:

Virginija Knowles (07753 513869)

This Policy was adopted on: March 2017

Policy to be reviewed: March 2018

Policy reviewed on: 25/04/2018 No changes made

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