

Safeguarding policy 2023

Our storytelling sessions, parties and events are for children. The protection and safety of children is paramount in the work we do.

We require any child joining one of our events to have a responsible adult to always be present. This is for standard safety reasons as well as being able to support the participating child/children throughout if required.

If we are in a school setting we require at least two teachers/TA's to be present during our sessions.

If we, at any time, observe behaviour from an attending adult to a child, (or child to child) that we deem unacceptable: including, but not limited to continual disruption, bad language, inappropriate body language, bullying, physical and/or emotional harm, then we will take the appropriate steps to deal with this. Depending on the severity of the behaviour and how it impacts upon the other participants and the child in question within the group, we may undertake the following:

1. Private discussion
2. Ask them to leave the group
3. Getting main contact at venue to intervene
4. Contacting safeguarding team within venue or from local authority
5. Calling the Police if we believe the child in question is in immediate danger

In undertaking any intervention our priority is to ensure the safety of any affected child in a timely manner. For example, if the child is being pushed by an older sibling, then we may feel that we can address this with minimal disruption to the group and then discuss this with the supervising adult afterwards. If what we see is more severe, then we would have to make a choice at that moment. We also must consider other participants in the sessions and what they can observe as well.

If a child approaches us requiring help due to any of the main strands of abuse including (not limited to) emotional and/or physical abuse, then we would find the appropriate means to acknowledge that we have heard them, and we will help them. If necessary, we may talk to our local safeguarding team for best options. If we observe any possible indicators of abuse or neglect of a participating child such as cuts and bruises, change of behaviour, or being particularly withdrawn, then we would again take immediate guidance from our local safeguarding team.

If at any point any workshop leader feels threatened, unsafe or attacked they will remove themselves from the situation and inform either their colleague, main contact, venue staff or police.