

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Purpose of Policy

Generation Circus accepts its duty of care towards children, and young and vulnerable people. This policy has been written to ensure the safety of all children, young people and vulnerable adults who take part in Generation Circus activities, both on and off site. It applies to all staff, volunteers, apprentices and trustees coming into regular contact with children, young and vulnerable people through Generation Circus.

- Generation Circus acknowledges that children should be given the best possible opportunity to learn. To do this Generation Circus commits to providing a secure, safe, and familiar environment in which to work.
- Generation Circus lessons are planned and taught in such a way to encourage positive learning, focussing on positive corrections and praise rather than criticism. Children who are genuinely trying to learn should never feel that they have “got it wrong”.
- Children are supervised at all times when in the care of Generation Circus.
- All teachers at Generation Circus are subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

This policy is based on the following fundamental principles:

We believe that all children, young and vulnerable people have a right to protection from abuse, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity.

We believe that the welfare of the child, young or vulnerable person is paramount. All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be taken seriously and addressed swiftly and appropriately.

We recognise our responsibility to make staff, volunteers and trustees aware of the issues surrounding the safeguarding of children, young and vulnerable people and to ensure that they understand and implement the policy and procedures outlined in this document.

We recognise the notional risk of abuse associated with an imbalance of power e.g. between teachers and students in closed situations.

Policy aims:

To ensure the safety and protection of all children, young and vulnerable people whilst in the care of Generation Circus.

To enable all staff, volunteers and trustees to make informed and confident responses to issues around the protection of children, young and vulnerable people

To promote a culture where all participants feel safe and respect each other's individuality.

To ensure that everyone has access to training, information and guidance in the area of keeping children, young and vulnerable people safe from harm.

To ensure that parents and students are knowledgeable about these issues so that they can better protect themselves.

Raising concerns

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please raise them with any Generation Circus teacher or contact info@generationcircus.co.uk

We will always adhere to our safeguarding and child protection policies and, if applicable, will refer any disclosures or concerns to the relevant authorities.

Safeguarding Team

Generation Circus staff receive regular training and we keep up with changes to legislation and review our policies annually.

Emma Taylor (Artistic Director)	07460 514214	info@generationcircus.co.uk
Maisy Taylor (Artistic Director)	07903 022408	maisytaylorcircus@gmail.com
Leo Shepherd (Chair)	07926 035178	LeoShepherd18@gmail.com
Concetta Clarizio (Secretary)	07812 759685	concettaclarizio@sky.com

Our staff are trained through external sources and ensure best practice is embedded in Generation Circus processes and procedures.

Guidance and Legislation

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 - A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- The Police Act 1997 – makes it a criminal offence for an employer not to check an employee working with children or vulnerable adults and/or knowingly give a job to someone who is inappropriate to work with children or vulnerable adults.

- Children Act 2004 – outlines the statutory duty on key people and bodies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 - superseded The Protection of Children Act 1999 and is specifically about disclosure and child protection issues.
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 – specifically highlights that it is an offence for an adult – such as a teacher – to have a sexual relationship with a child when that person is in a position of trust related to the child.

This policy was last reviewed: January 2024