

Requirement of Cast and Crew of a Swan Production involving a Child under the Age of 18

When any Swan Theatre activity involves a child, (legal defined as anyone under 18 years old), we have a responsibility to ensure their safety.

This includes

- Being aware of your own behaviour with the child directly, and when they are present.
- Ensuring the child is protected from harm while involved in the Swan activity, be that harm caused accidentally, inadvertently or intentionally.
- Recognising, responding and reacting appropriately should a child appear, or disclose to you, that they are suffering harm, either within the Swan or in their life outside.

The assumption for anyone engaged in activities with children is that Safeguarding is Everybody's responsibility.

One of the many joys of engaging in a theatre production is the camaraderie of working together and developing positive relationships with fellow members of the cast and crew. It is essential that for children to experience the joy of theatre we are careful to ensure all members of cast and crew are aware of how this is achieved safely for a child in the production.

The development of a positive working relationship with a child could mean the child develops an inappropriate expectation of the relationship and it is important that the adults recognise if this is happening and deal with it appropriately.

Similarly, if the child develops an appropriate trusting relationship with an adult in the production, they may share information which indicates they are at risk or actually being harmed elsewhere in their lives. If this is the case it is important that the adult is clear to recognise what they are being told, respond and react appropriately.

The Swan Safeguarding Policy gives detailed information and guidance about safeguarding. It is available at all times on the website for reference, but it is important that all cast and crew have an overall familiarity the content.

Although the Director has overall responsibility for the production and will support, it is a requirement that all cast and crew of a production which involves children and young people under 18, read the Swan Safeguarding Policy before they are confirmed in their role.