

## Child Protection

The RWB Arts Festival takes child protection extremely seriously. The RWB Arts Festival is a place of celebration of the many dramatic, choral, and musical talents of all of the children who come and perform. It is of utmost importance to all involved at the RWB Arts Festival that every child has a positive experience when on-site, where they are protected and safe, and are able to concentrate on performing in their classes to the best of their ability. In order to create a safe space for all concerned, we are affiliated and abide by [The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech](#) who have a [Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone](#) policy: details of which are alluded to below and are reprinted in each of our syllabi and our annual programmes. For full details of the policy please contact our Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer Lisa Williams via [RWBArtsFestival@gmail.com](mailto:RWBArtsFestival@gmail.com). A copy of this policy can be downloaded [here](#).

The RWB Arts Festival Committee members are DBS cleared where their role requires it and all Festival stewards are identifiable by a blue badge identifying their name and position held throughout the Festival to assist with any queries or concerns. There are nominated First Aiders available and First Aid provisions are provided throughout the various sites, should there ever be such an occasion for emergency attention to be given.

By completing and signing the entry form all parents / carers / guardians / teachers of entrants under eighteen (or vulnerable adults of any age) confirm that they give (and have therefore, obtained) the necessary consent for each individual entrant to take part in the Festival. Without the necessary consent, entry to the Festival will not and cannot be accepted for the safety of everyone. Where an entry is made by a child under the age of eighteen, the entry form must be countersigned by an appropriate adult, be that person a parent / guardian / or other named legally responsible adult.

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a preventative approach to keep children safe. The RWB Arts Festival wishes children, and their parents / carers / guardians to be comfortable in the knowledge they enter the RWB Arts Festival where the provision of safe and effective care is considered throughout their attendance, and is paramount to the safety of all children and ultimately to the success of the RWB Arts Festival.

Safeguarding encompasses a range of measures from:

- ensuring all on-site Festival Team Members are appropriately DBS Cleared where appropriate (e.g. where their role requires it)
- ensuring there are First Aiders on-hand
- ensuring First Aid equipment is available on-site
- ensuring all members of the RWB Arts Festival team are familiar with our safeguarding and child protection policies
- ensuring all members of the RWB Arts Festival team have an opportunity to discuss safeguarding issues at the RWB Arts Festival's AGM, or sooner in light of any changes in legislation or guidance. The Federation will review the '**Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone**' policy each year in November in line with Safe Network

guidance or sooner in light of any changes in legislation or guidance. All changes will be communicated to their member Festivals, i.e. RWBAF, in time for the start of the new Festival year.

In practice this means that RWB Arts Festival team are conscientious and encourage safeguarding of entrants throughout their classes by making simple requests such as encouraging the child's 'appropriate adult' to provide consent and to be present during any filming of a child's performance. This is also why we ban photography during performances, as privacy and consent are very serious matters. Where parents/guardians/carers do not wish photos to be taken at all, then the responsible adult attending should ensure that their child / pupil / vulnerable adult is not included in official authorised photos. For further details, see our Social Media Policy.

All RWB Arts Festival team members are fully committed to protecting children throughout the RWB Arts Festival and pledge to be alert and report any signs of abuse to appropriate authorities should anything untoward be identified.

### **Our Aims and Commitment to You**

We are a member of [The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech](#).

We understand:

- 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
- the welfare of all children / young people is paramount to the RWB Arts Festival The RWB Arts Festival recognises that working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, teachers, and other relevant agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare

We believe in:

'Safer Festivals for Everyone' and are committed to working to the Federations guidelines for safeguarding.

Whilst we are not responsible for other people's behaviour, we do all we can to keep children safe throughout the Festival, and we ask your help in making this possible.

### **Your Commitment to the RWB Arts Festival**

You understand:

- all entrants, 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

- the welfare of all children / young people is paramount during their time at RWB Arts Festival
- All entrants have a right to perform in a safe environment
- No bullying, abuse, violent, racist, sexist, aggressive, or intolerant behaviour will be accepted

### **Additional Needs or Provisions Required?**

The RWB Arts Festival welcomes entries from candidates who have additional needs, but notification of the nature of any condition must be made to the RWB Arts Festival team before entries are submitted in order that we can confirm adequate provision can be made. We endeavour to be inclusive and to accommodate all scenarios, and, for example, the site we use is a relatively new school building that has many provisions to facilitate easy access for wheelchairs etc.

In order to accommodate any requests, relevant information must be provided to the RWB Arts Festival team in a timely manner so we can help candidates participate.

It is necessary for teachers and parents to be aware of their responsibilities in entering any performers with limited physical capabilities or special needs, bearing in mind the limitations imposed by the stage and surrounding environment. Please contact us to discuss anything, and we will endeavour to help as much as possible. This is an inclusive event, and we encourage all interested entrants to come and celebrate their talents with us.

### **Finding Help**

We take Safeguarding extremely seriously, and our Safeguarding Officer is key in administering the relevant processes and procedures sensibly, tactfully, and legally. Whilst we hope this never to be the case, if any RWB Arts Festival team member notices anything of serious concern, appropriate authorities may have to be contacted.

The NSPCC is a wonderful charity that can help adults or children with any concerns, as can Childline.

[Help for adults concerned about a child](#)

Call us on [0808 800 5000](tel:0808 800 5000)

[Help for children and young people](#)

Call Childline on [0800 1111](tel:0800 1111)

Wiltshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (**MASH**) **0300 4560108** (08:45 to 17:00 Mon-Thurs) and (8:45 - 16:00) Friday

Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board can be found [here](#).

The NSPCC whistle blowing helpline telephone numbers is: 0800 028 0285 from 08:00 to 20:00, Monday to Friday, and their email address is: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

## **In Case of Emergency**

Wiltshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Emergency Duty Service **0845 6070888** (5pm – 8.45am)

If a child is in immediate danger, contact the police or call an ambulance immediately on **999**.

Please remember, the RWB Arts Festival is not responsible for external websites, their content or their advice.

## **Further Information**

Please help us keep children safe, by encouraging a safe environment where they can concentrate on delivering the hard work they have put in to a respectful, welcoming audience. Let us celebrate the talents of the next generation.

For further information, clarification or request for access / additional provisions etc., please contact our Safeguarding Officer Lisa Williams via [RWBArtsFestival@gmail.com](mailto:RWBArtsFestival@gmail.com). Please also note that the full safeguarding information is listed in the Festival syllabus, which is published annually.

Royal Wootton Bassett Festival [RWBArtsFestival@gmail.com](mailto:RWBArtsFestival@gmail.com)

Reg. Charity No. 1135906

