



Aldridge Youth Theatre Safeguarding Policy

Annex B: Child Protection Code of Conduct

Child Protection Code of Conduct

1 Introduction

Everyone who participates in Aldridge Youth Theatre is entitled to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment. AYT has a moral and legal obligation to ensure that, when given responsibility for young people, volunteers provide them with the highest possible standard of care.

AYT is committed to devising and implementing policies so that everyone at the club accepts their responsibilities to safeguard children from harm and abuse. This means to follow procedures to protect children and report any concerns about their welfare to appropriate authorities.

The aim of the code of conduct is to promote good practice, providing children and young people with appropriate safety/protection whilst in the care of AYT and to allow staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

The Children Act 1989 defines a child as "a person under the age of 18" The management of Health and Regulations 1999 regards a child as "a person who is not over the minimum school leaving age" and a young person as "a person who has not yet attained the age of 18". For the purpose of this document, a child is under 16 and a young person is over 16 but under 18.

1.1 Statement

Aldridge Youth Theatre is committed to the following:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity should be able to participate in AYT activities in a fun and safe environment
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings
- all suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- all AYT leaders and volunteers who work with children will be recruited with regard to their suitability for that responsibility, and will be provided with guidance and/or training in good practice and child protection procedures
- working in partnership with parents and children is essential for the protection of children

This form Annex B and must be signed off by all Aldridge Youth Theatre paid staff and volunteers working/in contact with children/young people

Name: _____ Role: Paid worker/Volunteer (delete as appropriate)

Signature : _____

Date: _____