

DMA Child Protection Policy Statement

Devizes Music Academy acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. We are committed to ensuring that our safeguarding practices reflect statutory responsibilities, follow government guidance, and comply with best practice, including *The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014*.

This policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, or socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of music and performing arts at Devizes Music Academy in a safe and child-centred environment;
- are protected from abuse while participating in amateur theatrical activities (including acting, singing, and dance) or in any setting connected with our organisation.

Devizes Music Academy acknowledges that some children — including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities — may be particularly vulnerable to abuse. We accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy, Devizes Music Academy will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people;
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding, and provide appropriate learning opportunities to help recognise, identify, and respond to signs of abuse, neglect, or other concerns;
- take appropriate action in the event of safeguarding incidents or concerns, and provide support to those who raise or disclose such concerns;
- maintain confidential, detailed, and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns and store them securely;
- prevent the employment or deployment of unsuitable individuals;
- ensure robust safeguarding procedures are in place and consistently applied.

This policy and its procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Devizes Music Academy. Failure to comply will be addressed without delay and may result in dismissal or exclusion from the organisation.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed one year after its development, and every three years thereafter, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance;
- as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board or Wiltshire Council Educational Welfare Service;
- in response to any other significant change or event.

(Last reviewed April 2025)