



Steel Valley Beacon Arts

Company No: 12845448

Charity No: 1192514



Online Safety Policy

The **Mission** of Steel Valley Beacon Arts is to offer the opportunity to anyone in our area to develop their performing arts skills in a safe inclusive environment in order to create quality theatre productions for our community.

The **Vision** of Steel Valley Beacon Arts is to be an excellent example of community theatre; working together, building individual and group confidence and self-esteem to provide quality entertainment in the community.

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

Steel Valley Beacon Arts works with children and families as part of its activities. These include:

- rehearsing productions
- performing productions

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices
- provide staff and volunteers with overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- ensure that, as an organisation we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

The policy applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in Steel Valley Beacon Arts' activities.

Legal Framework

This policy is drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England.

We believe that

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

We recognise that

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however it can also present risks and challenges
- we have a duty to ensure all children and young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using Steel Valley Beacon Arts' devices
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- appointing an online safety co-ordinator
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults
- supporting and encouraging the young people using our service to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- developing an online safety agreement for use with young people and their parents and carers
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child / young person
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that user names, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- ensuring that the images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)

- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account
- reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

Related policies and procedures

This policy should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures including:

- Child Protection
- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's welfare
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Photography and image sharing

Contact details

Online safety co-ordinator

Name:

Phone/email:

Trustee for safeguarding and child protection

Name: **Laura Twomey**

Phone/email: 0790 863 4675 / laura.twomey@btinternet.com

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on 1st August 2020.

Signed: *Laura Twomey*

Date: 1st August 2020