

Child Safeguarding

As a society, we need to appoint a 'Named person for child protection/safeguarding', currently this is Bea Milne but she is retiring from the role, as she has done this for five years and her children are now at a stage that they are less involved, we need to appoint a new person. This officer does not need any special training other than to be a qualified chaperone (below). But this one person (or a nominated deputy) does need to oversee children when they are in our care. For the pantomimes, in practical terms this means attending the dance rehearsals, creating and maintaining a register that parents sign when dropping their children off and collecting them later, accompanying children to the toilet. The officer also maintains a register of consent from parents allowing us to use photos or videos of their children in any publicity that we use. (the last few years there were no objections but before that we had one boy dancer whose photo we could not use) and records personal data (e.g. d.o.b – needed for the performance licence (below)) A child does not need a chaperone present if their parent is present (e.g. Fiona/Phia. Jessie Sparkes always had one of her parents at each rehearsal). Children between 16-18 don't need a chaperone neither (e.g. Grace, Eliza) but they do need to be included in our overall oversight.

The officer also ensures that we have sufficient chaperones for the performances. The officer also makes the application to SCC for children to be able to perform and ensures that we are issued with a certificate using the information gathered in the register:

https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/174680/Performance-Exemption-Application-Form-Aug-18.pdf

Guidance can be found here:

https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/145082/SAFEGUARDING-POLICY-Feb-2021.pdf

Chaperones: a (trained) chaperone can supervise **up to 12 children** but they must have sight of children at all times. In practise, in the panto, we needed four per performance: one seated in the audience, then whilst they are on stage, one in the wings left, one in the wings right, and one in the backstage corridor as they got into position. We ask for parents to take a turn at each performance to make up the four, providing we have qualified trained chaperones as well at each performance.

Chaperones have to attend training run by SCC which is either one day or two evenings. This costs £40. The society refunds the £40 plus any travel costs in getting to Woking. Once licenced, renewal (five years) can be done remotely. More details here:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/support-and-advice/young-people-and-their-families/guidance-on-children-and-young-people-in-employment-or-entertainment/chaperones-for-children-working-in-the-entertainment-industry>