

The Top Banana Project CIC

Child Protection Policy Statement

The Top Banana Project CIC runs circus workshops for children, young people and adults, and drop-in circus skills taster sessions for organisations, businesses and events. We employ freelance circus practitioners, and train young people in circus, teaching and performance skills, offering them volunteering, work experience and work opportunities.

Top Banana is committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them.

This policy applies to our Board of Trustees, paid staff, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of Top Banana.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- 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
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- to provide protection for the children and young people who participate in our activities.
- to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

Top Banana will review this policy each year or sooner in light of any changes in legislation or guidance. All changes will be communicated to our staff and volunteers.

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Trading as Top Banana Circus

September 2015