



Thames Festival Trust

Online Safeguarding Statement

The Trust will ensure that:

- All core staff, plus volunteers, contractors and trustees working with CYPVA, are made aware of our Online Safeguarding Statement and know how to respond to any incidents (see Flowchart).
- All CYPVA involved with our organisation and who make use of technology (such as mobile phones and the internet) will be protected whilst working with us.
- As an organisation we operate in line with our values and within the law regarding how we behave online.
- As an organisation we will address any concerns quickly and appropriately, working within the guidelines set out in this statement.

As part of our use of the internet and social media, the Trust will:

- Ensure we adhere to relevant legislation and good practice guidelines when using video conferencing platforms, social media, or any other online tools.
- Ensure all members of staff (and contractors, volunteers and trustees where applicable) are aware of the forms of abuse that can take place online, to which CYPVA can be particularly vulnerable, including cyberbullying, cyberstalking, cyber criminality, sexting and sexual exploitation.
- Provide appropriate further training for staff responsible for managing our organisation's online presence as needed.
- Constantly assess and manage how staff and the CYPVA we work with use online tools within our work setting, including what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour for staff and children when using websites, social media, apps, and video conferencing platforms. (This will be led by the Designated Safeguarding Officer in conjunction with the designated staff member managing our online presence.)
- Regularly review existing Safeguarding Policies and Procedures to ensure online safeguarding issues are fully integrated into our work systems.
- Examine and risk assess any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

When managing our online content whilst directly working with CYPVA, the Trust will:

- Ensure there are transparent routes from content creation by CYPVA to content publication on our website and social media channels where each party is accountable and behaves in line with the values of the Trust.
- Encourage staff working with CYPVA to ensure wherever possible that the online content produced by CYPVA as part of projects and workshops is formulated and discussed in a public setting such as a classroom or a centre and that a teacher or other responsible adult is present throughout this process.

- Ensure that staff working with CYPVA are responsible for posting the online content produced by CYPVA on the Trust's social media channels and other digital platforms, rather than CYPVA posting content by themselves.

Our online presence will adhere to the following guidelines:

- All social media accounts will be monitored by at least two designated members of staff, will be password-protected, and at least two members of staff will have access to each account and password.
- Identifying details such as a CYPVA home address, school/ centre name or telephone number will not be posted on social media or other digital platforms.
- Photographs and videos of CYPVA will not be posted without the written permission of a parent, guardian or other responsible adult and will be used only for the purpose for which consent has been given.

We expect our staff, contractors, volunteers and trustees to:

- Never solicit the personal mobile numbers or personal social media of CYPVA.
- Never engage in sexting or the sending of obscene images with CYPVA.
- Avoid communicating with CYPVA via personal accounts and avoid friending or following CYPVA via these accounts.
- Seek the advice of the Designated Safeguarding Officer if they have any concerns about the use of the internet or social media within the Trust.
- Pass on any concerns reported via social media, which should be dealt with in the same way as a face-to-face disclosure, according to our reporting procedures (see Flowchart).
- Communicate any messages they might wish to send out aimed at CYPVA to the designated staff responsible for the organisation's online presence.
- Communicate with teachers, parents, and other responsible adults via formal means of communication, such as face-to-face, in an organisational email, or in writing, as opposed to via personal social media accounts. Volunteers, contractors and trustees, if unsure, should seek advice from the Designated Safeguarding Officer regarding the appropriate person to undertake such communications.

If online abuse occurs, we will:

- Follow procedures as set out in our Safeguarding Policy and Flowchart.
- Ensure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders, and our organisation into account.
- Provide support to all affected parties and cooperate fully in any subsequent investigations.
- Review our Online Safeguarding Statement at regular intervals to ensure any problems are resolved in the long term.