



Somerset Youth Theatre CIC – Digital Safeguarding Policy

Last Updated: May 2025

Policy Lead: Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Joanne Evans - sytoutreach@gmail.com

1. Purpose and Scope

Somerset Youth Theatre CIC (SYT) is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and creative environment for all children and young people engaging with us both in-person and online. This Digital Safeguarding Policy outlines the behaviour expectations and protective measures that guide our use of online platforms and digital tools.

This policy applies to:

- All children and young people who participate in SYT activities
 - Parents and carers
 - All staff, freelancers, interns, and volunteers working with SYT
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2. Our Principles

We provide safer spaces for young people to create, explore and find their voice through Theatre & the Arts. We believe in supporting young people to safely explore digital spaces, and our online work is underpinned by the following values:

- **Be Brave** – try new things, express yourself
 - **Be Kind** – respect others and yourself
 - **Be Safe** – online and offline
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3. SYT's Online Behaviour Code

For Children and Young People:

You must:

- Use respectful language and treat others kindly
- Avoid accessing or sharing content that is illegal, offensive, or harmful
- Never send messages that are threatening, bullying, or inappropriate



- Not give out personal information (full name, phone number, address, school, etc.)
 - Keep your passwords private and secure
 - Only communicate online with SYT staff through approved platforms and with parent/carer permission
 - Never arrange to meet anyone you've met online without parent/carer knowledge and support
 - Talk to an adult (SYT staff or a parent/carer) if something online upsets or worries you
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4. Live Online Sessions (e.g., Zoom/ Teams/ Meets Workshops)

Before the Session:

- Sign in using your **first name only**
- If under 13, use a parent/carer's account and ensure they are present at the beginning and end
- Ensure your household knows you're joining a session; avoid others appearing on screen unless a parent/carer is checking in

During the Session:

- Wear appropriate clothing (head-to-toe)
- Use your video unless directed otherwise for a specific activity or during breaks
- Be respectful and kind to all participants
- Don't use virtual backgrounds unless requested as part of an activity
- Do not take screenshots or recordings. SYT may record sessions for safeguarding purposes
- You may take breaks – please let your practitioner know and follow their guidance for re-joining

Disruptive Behaviour:

- If behaviour is unsafe, disrespectful or disruptive, you may be removed from the session. A parent/carer will be contacted
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5. Submitting Pre-recorded Content

When creating and sharing pre-recorded video or audio:

- Use only your first name
- Avoid filming locations that reveal where you live, your school, or other regular locations
- Don't include other under-18s without explicit permission



- Dress appropriately and ensure your content is safe and appropriate
 - Let SYT staff or your parent/carer know if you change your mind about using any shared content
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6. Support and Accessibility

SYT is committed to inclusive practice and will:

- Provide a pre-session chat or check-in with families upon request
- Plan sessions with access needs in mind
- Have at least two SYT adults present in every live session
- Offer 1:1 support where required during or after sessions

If at any time you feel unsafe, confused, or upset during an SYT activity, talk to a practitioner or your parent/carer. You can also leave the session if needed and follow up with us later.

7. Contacts for Support

If you need help or wish to raise a concern, you can contact:

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Joanne Evans – 07918 425923 – sytoutreach@gmail.com

Deputy DSL

Fiona Hulme – 07918 425923 – fionahulme@somersetyt.com

8. Compliance

This policy is part of Somerset Youth Theatre's wider Safeguarding Framework, including:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Code of Conduct for Staff and Volunteers

All digital activities comply with best practice as recommended by the NSPCC and UK Safer Internet Centre.