E-Safety Policy

2nd Edition October 2014

This policy and the procedures that it underpins apply to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students and anyone working on behalf of The Gaiety School of Acting.

- to protect children and young people who attend the Gaiety School of Acting and who make use of information technology (such as mobile phones, games consoles and the Internet) as part of their involvement with us;
- to provide staff with the overarching principles that guide our approach to e-safety;
- to ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use information technology.

The Gaiety School of Acting recognise that:

- the welfare of the children/young people who come into contact with our services is paramount and should govern our approach to the use and management of electronic communications technologies;

- 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 and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to e-safety;

- the use of information technology is an essential part of all our lives; it is involved in how we as an organisation gather and store information, as well as how we communicate with each other. It is also an intrinsic part of the experience of our children and young people, and is greatly beneficial to all. However, it can present challenges in terms of how we use it responsibly and, if misused either by an adult or a young person, can be actually or potentially harmful to them.

The Gaiety School of Acting will seek to promote e-safety by:

- appointing an e-safety coordinator (Karen Lee);

- supporting and encouraging the young people attending the Gaiety School of Acting to use the opportunities offered by mobile phone technology and the internet in a way that keeps themselves safe and shows respect for others;

- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online and when using their mobile phones and game consoles;

- incorporating statements about safe and appropriate ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) use into the codes of conduct both for staff and for children and young people;

- developing an e-safety agreement for use with young people and their carers;

- use our procedures to deal firmly, fairly and decisively with any examples of inappropriate ICT use, complaints or allegations, whether by an adult or a child/young person (these may include breaches of filtering, illegal use, cyberbullying, or use of ICT to groom a child or to perpetrate abuse);

- informing parents and carers of incidents of concern as appropriate;

- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly;

- providing adequate physical security for ICT equipment;

- ensuring that user names, logins and passwords are used effectively;

- using only official email accounts provided via the organisation, and monitoring these as necessary;

- ensuring that the personal information of staff and service users (including service users' names) are not published on our website;

- ensuring that 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;

- any social media tools used in the course of our work with children, young people and families must be risk assessed in advance by the member of staff wishing to use them;

- examining and risk assessing any emerging new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

The name of our e-safety coordinator is Karen Lee

She can be contacted on 01 6799277 or email coordinator@gaietyschool.com

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

This policy was last reviewed on: 13th October 2014