



## Policy Statement

# CHILD SAFETY

(Endorsed: 25 May 2020)

1. Galleon Theatre Group Inc. ("GTG") acknowledges that the safety and wellbeing of children (i.e. persons under the age of 18) is the shared responsibility of the whole community and we all have a part to play.
2. GTG acknowledges its responsibilities under the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (SA) or its successor.
3. GTG acknowledges that having children participate in the organisation's activities brings additional responsibilities for members and volunteers of this organisation.
4. This child safe policy demonstrates GTG's strong commitment to child safety and establishing and maintaining child safe and child friendly environments.
5. GTG believes that all children who come to our organisation have a right to feel and be safe. We are committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people accessing our services and this will always be our first priority.
6. GTG aims to create a child safe and child friendly environment where all children who participate in our activities are respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.
7. All members and volunteers who have contact with children through our activities are responsible for promoting the safety and well-being of children and young people by:
  - 1) Ensuring another adult is always present or in sight when conducting one to one direction, instruction or other activities
  - 2) Adhering to this organisation's child safe policy at all times and taking all reasonable steps to ensure the safety and protection of children and young people
  - 3) Treating everyone with respect and honesty (this includes members, volunteers, children, young people and parents)
  - 4) Remembering to be a positive role model to children and young people in all conduct with them

- 5) Setting clear boundaries about appropriate behaviour between oneself and children and young people in our organisation – boundaries help everyone to carry out their roles well
- 6) Listening and responding appropriately to the views and concerns of children and young people
- 7) Responding quickly, fairly and transparently to any serious complaints made by a child, young person or their parent/guardian
- 8) Reporting suspected child abuse and neglect to the Child Abuse Report Line (tel: 131478) as soon as practicable
- 9) Encouraging children and young people to 'have a say' on issues that are important to them
- 10) Providing feedback to both children and parents or guardians.

8. Members and volunteers must not:

- 1) Engage in rough physical games or activities with children
- 2) Develop any 'special' relationships with children and young people that could be seen as favouritism such as the offering of gifts or special treatment
- 3) Do things of a personal nature that a child or young person can do for themselves, such as changing costumes
- 4) Discriminate against any child or young person because of age, sex, gender identity, cultural background, religion, vulnerability or sexuality.

9. The Stage Manager designated for a production in which a child is participating will:

- 1) Meet with the child's parent/guardian (or at least speak personally with them on the telephone) in order to establish a point of formal contact between the child, parent and GTG
- 2) Provide the parent with a copy of this Child Safety Policy
- 3) Provide every member and volunteer that has regular contact with the child with a copy of this Child Safety Policy.

10. GTG is aware of the need to ensure that children are not involved in activity or confronted with material that would conflict with the values of their family, or which would be regarded by the community as being inappropriate for their age and level of maturity. Therefore:

- 1) No child will be involved in any capacity in a GTG production if persons of their age would not be permitted to view it as audience
- 2) Whenever a child is to be involved in a GTG production, the Director will ensure that the child's principal caregiver is provided with detailed information regarding the content and style of the production, including the script and details of any potentially controversial aspects of the production. The child will not be cleared for involvement in the production until formal permission has been received from the caregiver via use of GTG Child Safety Acknowledgement Form.

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