



Safeguarding policy

## **1. General policy**

1.1 The Big Story Trust works with children and families as part of its activities. These include: undertaking assemblies, educational shows and workshops. The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who receive The Big Story Trust's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- to provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of [name of group/organisation], including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

## **2. Legal framework**

2.1 This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from [nspcc.org.uk/childprotection](http://nspcc.org.uk/childprotection).

## **3. We believe that**

- 3.1 Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- 3.2 We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

## **4. We recognise that:**

- 4.1 the welfare of the child is paramount
- 4.2 all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- 4.3 some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- 4.4 working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

## **5. We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:**

- 5.1 valuing, listening to and respecting them
- 5.2 appointing a nominated child protection/safeguarding lead, a deputy child protection/safeguarding lead and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding
- 5.3 developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice
- 5.4 using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- 5.5 creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- 5.6 developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- 5.7 sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- 5.8 recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- 5.9 providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- 5.10 implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- 5.11 using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- 5.12 ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place

- 5.13 ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- 5.14 recording and storing information professionally and securely.

## **6. Adoption of Policy**

- 6.1 The trustees of The Big Story Trust formally accepted this policy on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017.