



Stockport Garrick Theatre (SGT) Anti-bullying Support

Stockport Garrick Theatre's Anti-Bullying Policy sets our thoughts on bullying, what we will do to tackle it and how we support children and young people who experience or display bullying behaviour. This policy also applies to our adult members who might experience bullying.

Signs and Symptoms – Young people

A young person may indicate by signs or behaviour that he, she or they are being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from a youth activity
- doesn't want to go by public transport
- begs to be driven to the Theatre
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to the Theatre (Theatre phobic)
- begins to miss activities
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts self-harm, or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other young people or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Help young people understand bullying

- SGT has a responsibility to educate all young people about what bullying is so that they can better identify it.
- Keep the lines of communication open
- ensure that young people feel safe to talk to members and volunteers about what is happening to them, both in and out of SGT.

Youth Leaders, Members and Volunteers will:

- Encourage individuals to speak out about any bullying behaviour
- Respect every child's/young person's or adult member's need for and right to an environment where safety, security and recognition are available
- Respect the feelings and views of others
- Recognise that everyone is important and equal and that our differences make each of us special and worthy of being valued
- Show appreciation of others by acknowledging individual qualities, contributions and progress
- Ensure safety by having rules and practices explained at the beginning of drama sessions and through our *Welcome Handbook (*to be produced 2024)
- Report incidents of bullying behaviour

Supporting Children, Young People and Members

- We will endeavour to create an 'open door' ethos in our sessions where children and young people feel confident to talk to an adult about bullying behaviour or any other issue that affects them and will do the same for members
- Potential barriers to communication, such as those associated with a child's disability or impairment, will be acknowledged and addressed at the outset to enable children and young people to speak out
- We will ensure children and young people are aware of helplines or other services to support them if they feel bullied or harassed
- We will listen carefully to anyone who reports an incident of bullying behaviour and those reports will be taken seriously
- We will investigate any reported experience of bullying behaviour, carefully listening to all those involved
- Children, young people and members who experience bullying behaviour will be supported in their right to live in a safe environment
- Those who display bullying behaviour will be supported and encouraged to develop better relationships

Support to the Parents/Guardians/Youth Leaders

- Parents/guardians and youth leaders will be advised about Stockport Garrick Theatre's Anti-Bullying Policy
- Any experience of bullying behaviour will be discussed with the appropriate adult or member
- The appropriate adult will be consulted on action to be taken (for both victim and bully) and we will agree on these terms together
- Information and advice on coping with bullying will be made available
- Support will be offered to the appropriate adult or member, including information from other agencies or support lines

Help Organisations

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|
| • KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline | www.kidscape.org.uk | 0845 1205 204 |
| • Family lives | | 0808 800 2222 |
| • Youth Access | | 020 8772 9900 |
| • NSPCC Helpline | | 0808 800 5000 |
| • Childline | www.childline.org.uk | 0800 111 |
| • Anti-Bullying Alliance | www.antibullying.org | |
| • Bullying Online | www.bullying.co.uk | |

Stockport Garrick theatre contact details

Safeguarding Child Protection Team

annekemp@ntlworld.com

helenedwards39@yahoo.com

Honorary General Secretary

(On behalf of the Board of Directors)

generalsecretary@stockportgarricktheatre.co.uk