

Online Safety Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

At the Audacity Performing Arts Academy, some of our lessons are delivered to our students online using the popular video calling platform, Zoom. We use our online safety policy to keep all students and staff as safe as possible whilst using the platform.

ACCOUNTS

Teachers should use either the Audacity Performing Arts Academy Zoom account, or their own professional teaching Zoom account to deliver all of their lessons and when having contact with students.

Teachers should also use their professional teaching email account or the Audacity Performing Arts Academy email account when emailing parents/legal guardians (or students if aged over 18) in order to book lessons, send music or links, or answer questions to do with the lessons the student is receiving.

Students will use their Zoom account or an email link to get invited to and join lessons. Children under the age of 16 must be using a parent/guardian's account. Likewise, if an email link is being sent, the link should be sent to the parent/guardian's email if the student is under 16.

These email addresses and accounts are confidential and are not to be shared anywhere outside of the Audacity Performing Arts Academy, and only shared internally when in the best interest of the student.

CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- Teachers and staff never use personal accounts when communicating with students/parents/guardians.
- Ensure all communication is relevant to your work or lessons at the Audacity Performing Arts Academy.
- Use age- appropriate and professional language.
- Teachers must not accept or send friend requests or follow requests on personal accounts from students.
- Teachers must not follow students' social media accounts if they are under the age of 18 on any form of social media.

CHILD WELFARE AND THE INTERNET

We acknowledge that with the internet also comes an increased risk of:

- Online Abuse
- Grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Danger to mental health

At the Audacity Performing Arts Academy, we understand the seriousness of these and how the use of the internet can increase these risks. As a result, we encourage our teachers to always use the internet responsibly and respectfully. Teachers should report any suspicions of abuse or safeguarding concerns (including those that are online) to a DSL (Laura Wilson or Rhianna Goodwin) immediately. No form of abuse is tolerated at Audacity Performing Arts Academy and we acknowledge online abuse to be included in this.

YOUTUBE

Some of our teachers may use clips from youtube to aid their teaching. In these instances, teachers must ensure the clips they are showing are age appropriate, relevant and aren't linked to other potentially inappropriate content. When used properly, to show a specific video or clip, youtube videos are an excellent tool for our teachers, however the above steps must be followed and respected for them to be used.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MARKETING PURPOSES

It is useful for Audacity Performing Arts Academy to showcase our amazing students on our professional social media platforms on instagram and Facebook as well as our website. In the event Audacity Performing Arts Academy wishes to use photographs or videos of a student for social media and marketing purposes prior written consent must be given by the student if they are over 18 years old or their legal guardian if they are under 18 years old. This consent will be stored securely and destroyed 6 years after a student's termination of activities and services with Audacity Performing Arts Academy.

Social media post containing students will:

- Show students in a positive light
- Celebrate their success or progress
- Be appropriately captioned and edited to be viewed by under 18 year olds.

Social Media posts containing students will not:

- Contain any identifiable personal information except from first names and ages
- Contain any inappropriate materials that are unsuitable for the viewing of under 18 year olds
- be subject to over editing and excessive AI.

THIS POLICY WAS LAST REVIEWED AND UPDATED ON 09/08/2024 BY:

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