

## West End Wonders – Behaviour Management Policy

Discipline is at the heart of performance. Clear strategies and high expectations are essential to running an effective and enjoyable West End Wonders theatre workshop. Positive approaches to organisation, communication, and session structure help prevent most misbehaviour. Sometimes children react to a leader's style, instructions, or the flow of an activity, so staff should reflect on each session—especially if challenges arise—to continually improve practice.

### Key Aims

The aims of this Behaviour Management Policy are:

To provide guidance on creating a supportive, ensemble-focused atmosphere with clear rules and routines.

To promote positive behaviour and outline approaches to address misbehaviour.

To support staff in dealing with repeated or persistent behavioural issues.

### Creating an Ensemble Atmosphere

Staff will make an effort to ensure they get to know each child individually.

They will listen to, encourage, and involve children in appropriate decision making.

Foster teamwork, cooperation, and respect—core values in theatre.

### Rules and Routines

We will ensure all workshops begin punctually and all activities follow a strict timetable, which will be shared with the children at the beginning of the day.

Behavioural expectations in the performance spaces will be outlined clearly at the beginning of each workshop.

Children and staff will demonstrate the utmost respect for others and for the creative environment.

Where appropriate, staff and children to create rules together and explain the reasons behind them.

**Possible consequences for breaking rules may include:**

- Time out or a brief reflective break
- A quiet conversation with the parent/carer
- Missing an activity – parent will be informed and joint decision will be made on whether early collection is required.

**Teachers and other staff will at all times:**

- Encourage good behaviour at all times
- Look for positive behaviours, more than mistakes.
- Give children attention when they are not seeking it negatively.
- Nominate one child per workshop to be a drama captain.
- Reward the behaviours we want to see—praise, acknowledgement, and small privileges.

**Dealing with Unexpected Behaviour**

The following steps offer a consistent routine for addressing unexpected behaviours. Consistency and patience are essential—some issues take time to improve.

- Deal with unexpected behaviour promptly.
- Use non-verbal cues: move closer, make eye contact, give a gentle reminder gesture.
- Join in with or stand next to the child to redirect behaviour, without confrontation.
- Redirect their focus to the activity.
- Ask a simple, task-related question (e.g., “How’s your dance coming along?”).
- Praise an aspect of their involvement.
- “Catch” positive actions and ignore minor negative ones when appropriate.
- Ask whether they are having difficulty.
- Remind them quietly of workshop rules.
- Address the unexpected behaviour, only.

**If the Behaviour Continues**

- Relate the problem back to workshop expectations.
- Ask: “What are you doing? Is this expected behaviour?” Follow with: “What should you be doing instead?”

## **Persistent Misbehaviour**

- Calmly explain the consequence or loss of privilege.
- Remain polite, calm, and brief.
- Be specific about the behaviour.
- Avoid punishment, blame, shame, sarcasm, or anything that may humiliate.
- Never ignore the child—reset and move forward.
- Remove the child from the activity if needed.
- Use a supervised time-out, away from the group but still visible.
- Allow the child to rejoin when they agree to follow the rules.

## **Referral**

If the behaviour does not improve, the matter will be referred to the parent/carer or school (if appropriate).

## **Other considerations**

Discipline the individual, not the group.

Do not use any form of physical punishment.

Do not leave the group unattended to deal with an unexpected behaviour.

Do not physically handle a child.

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

This policy was last reviewed on: 13 February 2026

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. L.', written in a cursive style.

Director of West End Wonders